

How can I bring forward my ideas and questions about planning for an influenza pandemic?

FACT SHEET FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

This fact sheet provides an overview for health care providers on how they can bring forward ideas and questions regarding the planning for an influenza pandemic.

How do I share my ideas and raise questions within my own organization?

There may be many people with whom you can speak about pandemic planning activities. A good place to start is to speak with your supervisor who can discuss your thoughts and address your questions or he/she can put you in touch with another person who may have responsibility for pandemic planning. Your organization's joint health and safety committee, your health and safety representative or union leadership may also be useful contacts for you.

How can I be involved in preparedness activities in my organization?

Pandemic planning by health care organizations requires the input of its employees. Joint health and safety committees, speaking with a health and safety representative and pandemic planning committees are some of the vehicles that health care providers can use to have a voice in their organization's pandemic plans.

A joint health and safety committee - or, in smaller workplaces, the health and safety

representative - is an advisory group of worker and management representatives, established under Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act. It meets regularly to discuss health and safety concerns, review progress and recommend improvements to the workplace. Involving joint health and safety committees is necessary and beneficial in developing pandemic plans, especially for the parts that deal with worker safety. Further information on the role of joint health and safety committees and the related legislation is in the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic, Chapter 7 on Occupational Health and Safety. This chapter is posted on the ministry's website at: www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/pan_flu/pan_flu_plan.html

Can I contact the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care?

The Emergency Management Unit (EMU) has the lead within the ministry for the development of the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP). The EMU appreciates and values the input of health workers and as such has established a health care provider hotline and e-mail address to receive and respond to ideas, concerns and questions:

- **Health care provider Hotline:**
1-866-212-2272

The hotline is available during the EMU's business hours from 8:30am - 5:00pm.

In the event of an influenza pandemic, the hours of operation will be extended.

- **E-mail:**
emergencymanagement@moh.gov.on.ca
The EMU answers all e-mail queries within 1-3 days.

For more information

Visit our website at:

www.health.gov.on.ca/pandemic

Or call

INFOline 1-866-801-7242