

Distributor Supply Corporation Can Help!

Distributor Supply Corporation can provide products and services to aid your organization if a Pandemic were to occur. We realize that each organization will have different needs and demands. With that in mind, it is important to work together and produce an effective plan to deal with a Pandemic or other crisis situations. Distributor Supply Corporation representatives can provide recommendations for products, training, and solutions for potential supply chain issues.

How to Prepare

- Devise a plan to address actions to be taken when a pandemic/crisis occurs, a group of stakeholders, employees, contractors, etc. should contribute to the plan to ensure that all aspects of organization are reviewed. Establish a chain of command (with backups) and methods of communicating.
- Pre-stock enough infection control items to protect "at risk" employee populations. The CDC recommends a 6 to 8 week supply of core consumable resources.
- Provide employees with emergency kits containing personal protective equipment (face mask, gloves, aprons, etc.), hand sanitizer, bottled water, flashlight, etc.
- Develop a supply chain plan with vendors to ensure that your organization will receive critical supplies.
- Employees should be cross-trained for critical or core operations in case illness prevents primary personnel from reporting to work.

- All organizations should develop a long-term plan for utilizing employees and other resources so that they can be allocated to critical areas of operation.
- A communication plan should be developed to inform employees of where and when to report, as well as what actions should be taken. An external communication plan between local and regional facilities should be established as well.
- Practice good housekeeping procedures before and during the Pandemic. Clean surfaces that receive frequent contact in order to prevent the spread of contaminants.
- Perform a simulation exercise to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your facility preparedness plan; revise the plan as is necessary.

First Responders

Hand washing: Wash hands after touching contaminated items, whether or not gloves are worn. Use soap containing 62% ethyl alcohol to kill bacteria immediately.

Gloves: Non-sterile gloves are adequate. Wear these gloves whenever touching fluids or contaminated items. Change gloves between tasks, remove gloves promptly after use, before touching uncontaminated items, wash hands immediately.

Personal Protective Equipment: Disposable mask, eye protection, gloves, aprons, shoe covering should be worn.

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

DISTRIBUTOR SUPPLY CORPORATION OFFERS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
TO HELP YOUR ORGANIZATION PREPARE FOR A CRISIS.

Avian Flu Background, Cause for Concern

The first alerts and news broadcasts of the newest global killer H5N1, better known as Avian Flu or Bird Flu, startled the world in 2003-2004. The World Health Organization issued a statement warning that the disease was being transmitted from infected birds to humans and that it could mutate and begin to spread from human to human. Since December 2003, 175 human cases have been reported, 96% of which were fatal. Health experts were deeply concerned that a possible Pandemic could strike. Fortunately, this was not the case. Before you breath a sigh of relief, take a moment to become familiar with the seriousness of the situation and how to prepare for such a disaster.

People most at risk for contracting the disease are those who are in close contact with infected wild or domestic birds or infected raw poultry.

Influenza is spread mainly through the respiratory system, when an infected person speaks, coughs, or sneezes. It can also be spread by hand or face contact after touching a person or surface that has been contaminated. The incubation period for influenza is 1 to 3 days. Adults can spread influenza to others one day before being symptomatic to approximately five days after symptoms start, while children can spread influenza to others for up to 10 days or more.

Avian Flu is a highly contagious strain of the Influenza A virus commonly found in birds, which can cross over to sicken humans.



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PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

H5N1 still lacks strong ability to pass from human to human but, scientists say mutations could make the disease much more dangerous. While H5N1 did not reach Pandemic proportions, history reveals that there is sound reason for concern. Every year, influenza kills between 1 to 3 million people on average, including 30 to 50 thousand in the U.S. alone. Health experts warn that epidemics occur every 30 years or so. The expanding bird population is cause for concern. Birds represent the primary incubator for viruses like H5N1 and the global bird population has soared from 12 million to 13 billion poultry in China alone. Currently, there is no commercially available vaccine to prevent the H5N1 virus.

While a pandemic is not 100% preventable, there is one way to protect human health and sustain business operations.

Senator Robert Pittenger explains that, “people are much less likely to panic in a crisis - and thus prevail in a bad situation - if they have a plan and have their organization/family prepared ahead of time so that everyone knows exactly what to do”.

Working out the details before disaster strikes can make a difference between life and death. What plans and practices does your organization have in place to ensure sustainability in a time of crisis?

What will be impacted the most?

Hospitals & Nursing Homes:

Overwhelming demand for healthcare and a shortage of employees due to illness will put tremendous strain on hospitals. Disruption of the supply chain will be unavoidable. The need for sanitizing/ disinfecting, waste management, and disposable products will be in high demand.

Prisons:

Close quarters are a prime environment for spreading disease. Like any large institutions the need for sanitizing, waste management, and disposable products will be in high demand.

Schools:

Children in schools, day care, or dorm type settings are more susceptible to viruses. Prevention will be the key. Use of sanitizing hand soaps is the first line of defense. Other cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing products should be used to prevent lingering germs from spreading.

Military Installations & Government Offices:

These organizations are most likely to be highly involved and at risk during a pandemic/crisis situation. Preventative steps should be taken to slow the spread of illness. Sanitizing hand soaps, disinfecting cleaning products and disposables should be readily available and used frequently.

Cleaning Contractors:

As many of your customers may not have a full time internal cleaning staff in place you can expect an increased need for your services. Sanitizing hand soaps and disinfecting cleaning products will be in high demand and the best line of defense against the spread of illness.

Distribution:

Products for the healthcare and cleaning industries will be in high demand. Disruption of the supply chain and shortage of laborers will prove to be obstacles without sufficient planning.

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- Protect the health and well being of your employees
- Provide employees with quality information and education
- Issue personal bottles of alcohol based skin sanitizer
- Pre-stock enough infection control items: hand sanitizer, surface disinfectants, antiseptic wipes, bleach, heavy liners, face masks, and disposable gloves, towels, tissue, and can liners
 - Solicit contingency plans from your vendors for uninterrupted supply
 - Identify alternate vendors in case of possible supply chain interruption
 - Continue to serve as many of your customers as possible for the duration of the pandemic

An in-depth report and other resources regarding planning and infection control for a pandemic can be located at the CDC website www.cdc.gov

Web based resources

www.pandemicflu.gov	www.avianflu.gov
www.who.int/en (World Health Organization)	www.hhs.gov (Dept. of Health & Human Services)

PANDEMIC FLU TIMELINE

1918	1957-58	1968-69	1977	1997	1999-2003	2004	2005	2006
Pandemic “Spanish flu”: most devastating flu pandemic in recent history, more than 500,000 deaths in the U.S., 20 to 50 million deaths worldwide.	Pandemic “Asian flu”: first identified in China. Over 70,000 deaths in the U.S. H2N2 has not circulated in humans since 1968. No one under 30 years old has immunity to this strain.	Pandemic “Hong Kong flu”: first identified in Hong Kong, over 34,000 deaths in the U.S. The H3N2 virus still circulates today.	“Russian flu”: isolated in northern China, similar to virus of 1957. Those born before 1957 were generally protected, children and young adults born after 1957 were not because they had no prior immunity.	New influenza strain in humans, transmitted directly from birds to people, infections linked to exposure to poultry markets, 18 people in Hong Kong were hospitalized, six of whom died.	Various strains including H9N2, H7N2, H5N1, and H7N7 are reported resulting in several illnesses and a handful of fatalities.	“Avian flu”: caused illness in 47 people in Thailand and Vietnam, 34 of whom died.	February, first case of human infection arises in Cambodia, WHO (World Health Org.) reports 4 Cambodian cases, all fatal. December 30, WHO reports a cumulative total of 142 laboratory-confirmed cases of H5N1 infections worldwide, all in Asia, with 74 deaths.	During the course of the year H5N1 is reported in Eastern Turkey, China, Iraq, Africa, and Egypt resulting in over 15 reported deaths.