

# IV. What You Can Do

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Preparing for the Next Pandemic



# What You Can Do

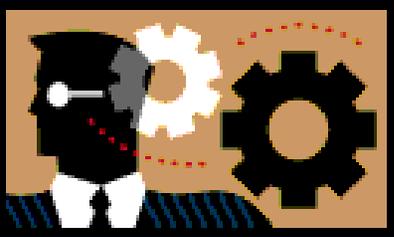


Business

Communities

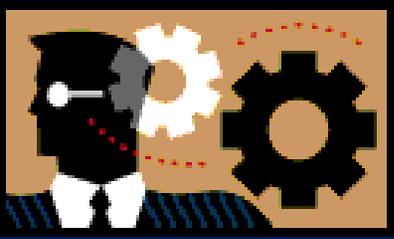


Families



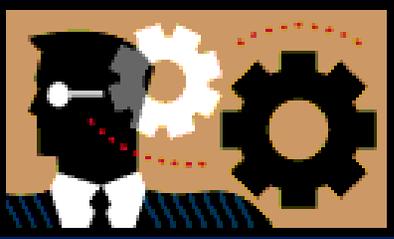
# Pandemic Planning Business

- 2003 SARS outbreak illustrated the potential economic impact of an epidemic threat
  - Asia-Pacific - ~\$40 billion
  - Canada: \$1.5 billion
- Influenza pandemic would have global economic impact
  - Widespread absenteeism, illness, death, and fear
  - Shortages of critical supplies and personnel
  - Potentially widespread disruption of travel



# Pandemic Planning Business

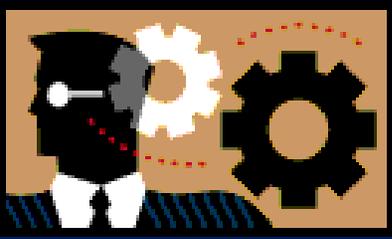
- Stay informed!
  - Establish trusted sources of information
- Prepare to maintain business during pandemic
  - Identify essential functions and personnel
- Help workers and their families to prepare
- For some – prepare to maintain essential community services



# Pandemic Planning Business

## General Preparedness Principals

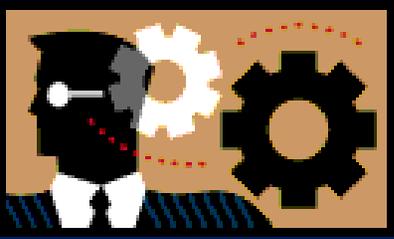
- Make it somebody's job
  - Identify a preparedness coordinator
- Communications
  - Identify where you will get reliable information
  - Decide how you will communicate with your employees, customers, and suppliers
- Practice and test your plans



# Pandemic Planning Business

## Plan to maintain operations

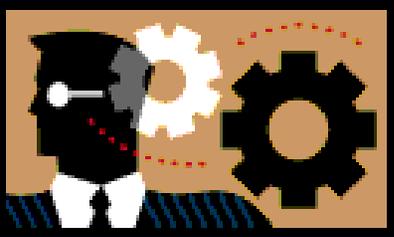
- Identify critical employees and other inputs
- Plan for absences due to illness, school closures, containment measures, or mass transportation closures
- Be prepared to accommodate disruptions in supplies and in customers' businesses
- Plan for travel restrictions
- Develop policies and capacity to support telecommuting, flexible work schedules, and remote customer access



# Pandemic Planning Business

## Plan to protect workplace and employees

- Develop policies to limit impact
  - sick leave, respiratory hygiene, cough etiquette
- Assure supplies of infection control materials
  - hand washing, tissues and disposal sites
- Plan to restrict travel to affected areas or to evacuate employees from those areas
- Evaluate medical care access and coverage



# Pandemic Planning Business

## Help Employees Prepare

- Employer is a key source of information for many workers
- Help employees establish basic family and personal emergency plans
- If a pandemic appears imminent or arrives
  - Be prepared to monitor sources of guidance and pass on to employees



# Pandemic Planning Communities

- Build on existing emergency plans
- Identify potential barriers (e.g. diverse languages, people with special needs)
- Coordinate with state and federal plans
- Encourage neighborhood CERT teams
- Involve local schools, faith organizations, businesses & other community organizations
- Test plans regularly

# Families

- Have a family plan
  - Standard family emergency plan
  - Plus - 2-3 weeks of food, water, medications
- Avoid infection!
  - Wash hands, respiratory hygiene, stay home if sick
- Stay informed – identify source of information
- Use planning guides



# Pandemic and Avian Influenza

## Additional information

Utah: <http://www.pandemicflu.utah.gov>

HHS: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>

WHO: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/)

NIH: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/influenza/pandemic.htm>

John M. Barry *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague In History*

Neustadt R, Fineberg H. *The Epidemic that Never Was: Policy-making and the Swine Flu Affair*