



NEW YORK CITY

Office of Emergency Management

NYContinuity

Emergency Management Newsletter for Businesses

NYC OEM
May 2009

Welcome to the second issue of the **NYContinuity** newsletter, a monthly publication to help you prepare for emergencies, strengthen your continuity plans, update you on emergency management news, and inform you about events and resources available to businesses.

The focus of this month's newsletter is pandemic influenza preparedness. New York City's recent and ongoing encounter with H1N1 seems to be quieting down, but that does not mean that our experiences with the flu are over. Pandemic viruses often come in waves, and the current strain could return in a more severe form in several months. This makes the present an excellent time to prepare your business for a pandemic flu. This issue will help you get ready.

NYContinuity is a newsletter for small business owners and continuity professionals brought to you by the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Small Business Corner

The Small Business Corner presents resources, tips, and events that help you prepare for emergencies.

Continuity Feature:

Business Planning for Pandemic Influenza



A pandemic influenza presents business owners and managers with unique challenges. Unlike many other hazards, a flu pandemic will not involve physical damage to your business. Instead, businesses are likely to be affected by high levels of employee absenteeism, supply disruptions, and changes in patterns of demand for goods and services.

The following resources can help you plan for these challenges:

- Read the NYC Department of Health's [Guidance for Preventing the Transmission of H1N1 Influenza in the Workplace](#).
- Learn how to [Prepare Your Business for Pandemic Influenza](#).
- Read OEM's [Ready New York: Pandemic Flu Guide](#) for personal preparedness tips.
- Learn more about pandemic flu preparedness for businesses at [pandemicflu.gov](#).
- Download OEM's all-hazard business continuity planning guide, [Ready New York for Business](#).

Upcoming Events:

PlanFirst Pandemic Planning Webcast: May 27, 2009, 2:00 PM

The webcast can be viewed at www.hhs.gov.

PlanFirst, launched in March, 2008, by the US Department of Health and Human Services, is a regular webcast series about pandemic planning.

To watch previous webcasts, visit http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu_webinar.html.

May is Hurricane Awareness Month

Every May, before hurricane season officially starts, New York City celebrates Hurricane Awareness Month to educate residents about the potential hazards that hurricane season brings.



OEM has many tools to prepare New Yorkers for coastal storms, including Ready New York hurricane presentations, a hurricane guide, and the Hurricane Zone Finder, which allows New Yorkers to see if they live in an evacuation zone.

Visit www.nyc.gov/oem for more information.

Guest Spotlight:

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The mission of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is to protect and promote the health of all New Yorkers. DOHMH is the lead agency in any public health emergency in New York City. In the response to the H1N1 outbreak, DOHMH mobilized a campaign of public health surveillance by investigating new entries at the City's hospitals and intensive care units, tracking purchases of over-the-counter medication at pharmacies to look for potential clusters of illness, and monitoring confirmed cases, such as those at St. Francis Prep and PSQ177.



DOHMH, with assistance from OEM, also led the public information campaign, releasing H1N1 fact sheets, FAQs, and press releases to keep New Yorkers informed about the situation and how to help prevent the further spread of the virus.

For more information about the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, including information related to H1N1 Influenza, please visit www.nyc.gov/health.



Enroll in the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS), the only program recognized by the NYPD and OEM that allows emergency access to businesses.

For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/ceas.

If you have any topics or themes that you would like to see covered or any suggestions for how we may improve this newsletter, please send an e-mail to publicprivate@oem.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,
The **NYContinuity** Team

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