

Continuity IQ

from  DSPN

November 2005 **Fast Facts for Our Valued Friends and Clients**

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about recent events from your friends at DSPN.

Fast Facts

Did you know....

1. An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new virus “emerges” in the human population, causes serious illness, and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide. Pandemics are different from seasonal outbreaks or “epidemics” of influenza. Seasonal outbreaks are caused by subtypes of influenza viruses that are already in existence among people, whereas pandemic outbreaks are caused by new subtypes or by subtypes that have never circulated among people or that have not circulated among people for a long time.
2. The current bird flu virus, which the global public health community is watching, is mostly transmitted from bird to bird. It has infected about 150 humans, but rarely has it spread from human to human, making it not very infectious.
3. Virtually everyone on the planet was exposed to the flu pandemic of 1918. Half of the population became ill, and 25% died.
4. According to Reuters, Global corporations are crafting emergency plans for remote work sites and stockpiles of masks and antiviral medicines in case dire predictions of a worldwide bird flu pandemic come true. Businesses could face travel restrictions, a sharply reduced workforce and disruptions in supply chains if an especially deadly influenza circles the globe and wreaks havoc for months.
5. The head of the World Health Organization, Lee Jong-Wook, warned that it was just a matter of time before a global bird flu epidemic breaks out, with disastrous results which will dwarf the impact from SARS.
6. SARS infected nearly 8,100 and killed about 775, according to the World Health Organization. In the USA, eight people were found to be infected with SARS; each had traveled to regions with outbreaks.
7. In countries that have pandemic outbreaks, health officials would likely screen passengers, as was done at many airports during the SARS outbreak, says United's corporate medical doctor, Gary Kohn.
8. Hong Kong will roll out a huge action plan to fend off a bird flu outbreak. The government is stockpiling medicines, putting together flu alert drills, and setting up quarantine venues. They are also preparing to publish alert manuals and to set up intensive care units throughout the city.
9. One potential business impact of a pandemic is that offices may be closed by

- health authorities.
10. During a pandemic, the economy could suffer if client businesses are forced to close, or people avoid populated environments such as shopping centers.

Brain Teasers

True or False:

1. The 1878 Posse Comitatus Act bars federal troops from carrying out law enforcement duties inside the United States during peacetime, short of suppressing an insurrection.
2. The mortality rate for persons infected with the existing H5N1 appears to be around 50%.
3. Tamiflu has been shown to prevent flu infections for up to six months after a proper dose is administered.
4. There are currently no U.S. manufacturers of flu vaccine, which is imported from companies based in Great Britain, Belgium and France.
5. The 1918 virus kills chicken eggs. Currently, modern vaccines are made by growing influenza in chicken eggs, extracting the virus and turning it into vaccines.

Check your answers here...

Answers to the above questions:

1. True.
2. True. The garden-variety annual flu kills less than 1% of people infected.
3. False. To prevent the flu, Tamiflu must be taken continuously during a flu outbreak.
4. True. European companies might be able to produce about 60 million doses in four months, one-tenth of what would be needed if a pandemic struck.
5. True. Scientists are experimenting with new ways to produce flu vaccines.

Readiness Check

Hard-to-remember details:

1. Do you know which employees can work at home if they are quarantined, or if access to their building is denied?
2. Can you split critical work so it is done by two teams on separate days and shifts? If one team is exposed to a virus, the separation will make sure the other team is not.
3. Have you moved critical documents to a secondary location in case access to your primary building is denied?
4. Have you determined how to screen vendors to avoid human contact? Pay particular attention to food delivery, cleaning services, and package deliveries.
5. Are your contact lists updated and ready to use in multiple formats?

New From DSPN

Check these out on our website:

1. [DSPN Workshops](#) are coming to Chicago and LA.
2. Our [Free Resources Page](#) includes a white paper entitled "Standardizing the Incident Command System for Businesses."

Contributors to This Issue

- Judy Bell, DSPN
- Steve Craig, DSPN
- Paul Klier, DSPN

Comments and Contributions



Tell us what you think...

Thanks to all of you who contributed comments about this mailing.

In responding to recent incidents, did you discover an interesting detail that you would like to share? If so, send it along and we'll consider it for a future issue. If you want us to print a comment or submission about your company, be sure to give us permission when you write.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Paul

Contact Information

email: pklier@dspnetwork.com

phone: 800-601-3776

web: <http://www.dspnetwork.com>

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