

The Connection™

Marvin's View

September 15, 2009



YOU ARE ON THE FRONT LINES

For the past months we have provided information from various agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control to keep you up to date on the predicted dangers of the H1N1 Flu Pandemic. (You can access our Connection™ Newsletters on the subject through our [website](#)).

But now as the flu is expected to truly become serious around the world, our Marketing Director, Caryn Stets wanted to provide you with one concise document that reviews what the virus is and what the authorities say about how we can try to protect ourselves and others from become infected. Please share this information with your staff, family and friends.

[Click here](#) to view document.

Because your staff is on the front lines trying to keep surfaces as germ-free as possible, they deserve the tools and focus to help protect your facility. We see a school closed to avoid the staff and children from getting sick ... a court house closed because it may be contaminated ... and then who do we see? Janitors and Housekeepers cleaning and disinfecting the building. This may seem normal to some people but I look at it a little differently. Everyone is leaving the facility and your staff is going after the flu virus to protect all the people who use it. They are on the Front Lines!

So, here are a few suggestions.

1. Look for support. Check with all your associates (infection control, school nurse, etc.) who are involved in protecting your facility from the flu virus. Get their advice and assistance.

2. Get your team on board. Meet with your managers to set up a plan for daily cleaning and emergency cleanup. This might be focusing on critical areas such as high contact areas, door knobs, push plates, railings, phones, water fountains, etc. What are you going to do if some of your personnel become ill themselves and cannot come to work?

3. Talk to the top of the Pyramid. Present your plan to Administrators, School Boards, Plant Managers, etc. Tell them what you are doing and ask for their help and assistance. This could mean hiring more personnel, getting staff to assist (like teachers disinfecting the desks each night) or simply recognizing the extra work your department is doing. **Remember controlling the pandemic in your facility is a profitable investment for your management whether you are cleaning a factory, naval ship, correctional facility or school.**

4. Protect your staff. Make sure they are first in line to get flu shots. They are most at risk, and if they are sick, they cannot protect the facility. Provide them with the necessary education and proper protective equipment to do the job. Encourage them to change clothes before going home and/or wash thoroughly. Well, you know what to do, help them protect themselves.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call or e-mail Caryn cstets@portionpaccorp.com), Hal Temkin (htemkin@portionpaccorp.com), Jerry Goldman (jgoldman@portionpaccorp.com), Mark Samios (msamios@portionpaccorp.com) or me (mklein@portionpaccorp.com).

We are all in this battle together.

