Internal and External Pandemic Preparedness from a Business Perspective

Internal Preparedness
Making the workplace as safe as possible.

Challenge

Having the right supplies on hand.

Initiatives

- Stock hygiene supplies such as hand sanitizer and surface cleaners.
- Stock protective gear such as gloves, masks, and goggles.
- Do it *NOW* because they may not be available during a pandemic.

However, medical experts do not appear to agree on which types of products are the most effective, or even if some products like gloves and masks should be used at all.

There is a danger in giving employees a false sense of safety.

Internal Preparedness
Making the workplace as safe as possible.

Challenge

Reducing density in the workplace.

Initiatives

- Identify employees who could work remotely.
- Assure that they have the necessary equipment, materials and training to work remotely.
- Do it *NOW* and allow them to work from home to exercise that capability.

Internal Preparedness
Making the workplace as safe as possible.

Challenge

Reducing density in the workplace.

Initiatives

- Identify where additional shifts could be added.
- Identify where people could spread to other (perhaps recovery) sites.
- Close common areas, including cafeterias, and hold meetings via phone and other remote means.

Internal Preparedness
Dealing with 40-60% staff shortages.

Challenge

Transportation issues.

Initiatives

- Identify how staff members travel to/from work.
- Identify transportation alternatives now, before they are necessary.
- Identify staff who have *NO* alternate means to their primary work site and consider if they could work from a closer alternate site.

Internal Preparedness
Dealing with 40-60% staff shortages.

Challenge

Single points of failure.

Initiatives

- Identify staff members with unique skills.
- Cross-train others in those skills.
- Identify processes requiring things like approvals.
- Establish alternate emergency processes with effective controls in place.

Internal Preparedness
Dealing with 40-60% staff shortages.

Challenge

Maintaining technology systems.

Initiatives

- Determine which systems require frequent human intervention.
- Cross-train others in their support.
- Identify support that could be done remotely.
- Establish redundant systems in different geographic areas.

External Preparedness
Dealing the staff shortages of other entities.

Challenge

Reduced vendor services.

Initiatives

- Identify alternative service providers.
- Identify alternatives to vendor services.
- Identify and stock up on critical work materials.
- Identify alternatives to critical infrastructure.

External Preparedness
Dealing with the staff shortages of other entities.

Challenge

Reduced or unavailable emergency services.

Initiatives

- Assist employees in establishing the means to be self-sufficient for an extended period of time.
- Encourage employees to establish mutual aid partnerships with their neighbors.
- Encourage employees to identify others with special needs and plan ahead to fulfill those needs.

Private/Public Partnerships

Challenge

Getting the public sector to work with the private sector toward improved emergency preparedness and response.

Initiatives

- Form private sector coalitions to allow like institutions to work together.
- Use the coalitions to approach the public sector with a combined voice.

MOVING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX
Financial coalitions working with other organizations. For example....

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