

Flu Commentary

The Emerging Health Threat of Swine Flu

[Donald A. Donahue, DHEd \(Cand\), MBA, FACHE, CHS-III](#) and the Executive Director of the [National Security Health Policy Center](#) at the [Potomac Institute for Policy Studies](#) is calling for added vigilance and precaution in U.S. workplaces as the swine flu outbreak continued to spread.

“Businesses have a particular interest in keeping employees and customers well, and need to adjust accordingly to this situation,” said Donahue, who also serves as the head of Firestorm Solutions’ Healthcare Response Team.

The number of confirmed swine flu cases in the U.S. continue to rise. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security declared a public health emergency.

Donahue’s recommendations include:

- Encouraging workers to stay home if they are having symptoms of the flu;
- Emphasizing workplace hygiene policies, especially hand-washing;
- Restricting company travel to affected areas;
- Limiting in-person meetings by using telephone and internet conferences as much as possible;
- Opening windows where possible or keeping air-conditioning systems running to increase circulation.

Businesses should also plan for continuing operations with a significant portion of employees out sick or caring for a sick family member.

In response to the emerging threat presented by the swine flu, Firestorm held a free educational webinar entitled “Swine Flu: PREDICT. PLAN. PERFORM.” on April 29th. The webinar addressed health, operational and financial issues, and was hosted by Firestorm CEO Harry Rhulen, and featured Dr. Stephen Cunnion, the first person to alert the Western world of SARS in 2003 and a member of the Firestorm Healthcare Response Team. Updates on the situation can be found at www.firestorm.com or the Communicable Illness group on LinkedIn.

The information on this page is provided and underwritten by [Firestorm Solutions, LLC](#). Firestorm is a national leader in communicable illness and pandemic planning, business continuity, vulnerability analysis, risk mitigation and crisis management. Its Expert Council includes former U.S. Surgeons General C. Everett Koop and David Satcher.