



To limit impact on our business and employees,
Sprint Nextel is preparing for pandemic
flu, a worldwide flu outbreak

Pandemic Flu

Preparing our company

Why the Concern About Pandemic Flu?

By now, you have probably heard about pandemic flu, a new flu form for which people have no immunity, such as the H5N1 flu strain (bird flu).

Because flu pandemics tend to occur in cycles, and there has not been a major flu pandemic since 1968, experts believe we are due for one soon.

Experts estimate that a pandemic flu, like the "Spanish Flu" of 1918, could kill more than half a million people in the U.S. alone, hospitalize more than 2 million and cost our economy as much as \$160 billion.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), state and county governments and businesses, such as Sprint Nextel, are among the organizations preparing for such an emergency.

Depending on the flu strain, employee absentee rates could equal 25 percent to 30 percent over three to four months.

Public health officials are monitoring the bird flu virus (H5N1), with the fear that it may evolve into the next pandemic flu outbreak.



Experts fear bird flu might become the next wave of pandemic flu.



Sprint 
Together with NEXTEL

Steps Sprint Nextel Is Taking

The Corporate Business Continuity Office has instituted a pandemic planning committee that is coordinating efforts in these areas:

Business Unit Planning - Requiring all individual business units to conduct a Pandemic Impact Analysis (PIA) to assess how pandemic flu might impact the unit.

Government - Identifying key contacts within government and working on building relationships as needed.

Environmental, Health and Safety - Developing protocols to prevent the spread of flu, including hygienic guidelines for cleaning desks/individual workspaces and distancing employees.

Information Systems - Coordinating with IT to develop telecommuting options to ensure key employees can continue to work from anywhere.

Human Resources - Providing guidelines for employee time off and compensation if a pandemic strikes.

Security - Developing guidelines to protect employees traveling internationally from illness.

Internal Communications - Developing a communication plan and pandemic Web site to educate and inform employees about pandemic flu.

External Communications - Developing an outreach program for our key partners and alliances.

Supply Chain - Conducting an assessment of key vendors to maintain our access to energy, raw materials and other services critical to keeping our business going.

For more information, type “pandemic” in your i-Connect browser.

How a Pandemic Flu Could Impact Business

While the impact of a flu pandemic is difficult to predict, the effects could be severe and felt worldwide.

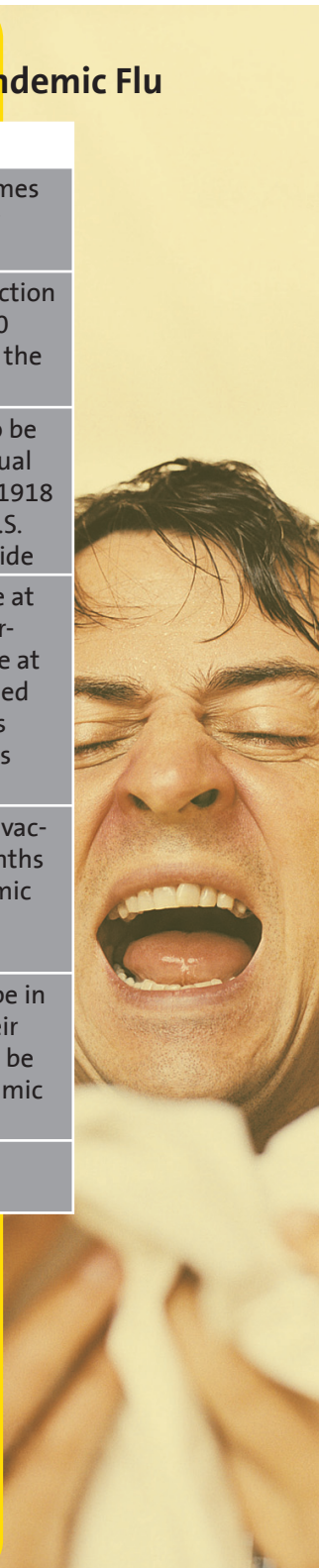
The economy could suffer significant disruptions if a large number of employees across the country aren't working, either because they are sick or caring for a sick loved one, or they are isolating themselves to reduce the chance of exposure. What could happen:

- Public transportation services, such as trains and buses could stop operations or offer limited services.
- Schools/daycare facilities could close.
- Critical services provided by organizations, such as banks, restaurants, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, post offices and police could cease or be greatly compromised.
- Travel bans could be put into effect.
- Medical care for people with chronic illness could be disrupted.
- Stores could close or have limited supplies of food and medicine.
- Businesses might not be able to get needed deliveries because of limited travel and/or fuel shortages.



Differences Between Annual Flu and Pandemic Flu

Annual Flu	Pandemic Flu
Occurs every year during the winter	Occurs three to four times per century during any season
Infects 5 percent to 20 percent of the U.S. population	Experts predict an infection rate of 25 percent to 50 percent, depending on the flu strain
Kills about 36,000 to 40,000 people per year in the U.S., and about 500,000 to 1 million worldwide	Death rate expected to be much higher than annual flu; the Spanish Flu of 1918 killed 500,000 in the U.S. and 50 million worldwide
Deaths generally limited to “at risk” groups, such as the elderly (older than 65), the very young (6 to 23 months) and those with existing medical conditions	All age groups could be at risk for infection. Otherwise, fit adults could be at relatively high risk, based on patterns of previous pandemic flu outbreaks
Vaccination is developed each year and is effective because the virus strain in circulation is relatively predictable	Producing an effective vaccine could take six months from when the pandemic starts
Antiviral drugs are available for those most at risk of becoming seriously ill	Antiviral drugs might be in limited supply, and their effectiveness wouldn’t be known until the pandemic was under way
-- adapted from Trust for America’s Health, www.healthyamericans.org	



Tips to Prevent Any Flu

Flu and colds are transmitted from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Practicing healthy habits, such as getting plenty of sleep, staying physically active, managing stress, drinking plenty of fluids and eating nutritious food, can help you to avoid the flu.

In addition to practicing healthy habits, you should:

Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough. When possible, cough or sneeze into your shirt sleeve or a tissue and then throw the tissue away.

Clean your hands often. When possible, wash your hands with soap and warm water; rubbing your hands vigorously together for at least 20 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs.

Use alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers to disinfect your hands. When soap and water are not available, use alternatives that can be found in most supermarkets and drugstores.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches their eyes, nose or mouth. Germs can sometimes live for two hours or more.

Stay home when you are sick. Get plenty of rest and check with a health-care provider when needed.

Keep your distance from others who are sick.



To wash your hands well, wet hands with warm water, lather with soap and rub hands together for at least 20 seconds.