

Swish Flu Preparedness Kit

We saw the impact of SARS; Swish inventories were depleted within hours. We were unable to get inventory from our suppliers until the federal and Provincial Governments received their allocations.

With the flu season upon us, we can never forecast if a pandemic might occur. However, at Swish, we are taking measures to aid in the support of helping our customers be prepared, should it happen.

We are pleased to introduce the Swish "Flu Preparedness Kit". This program has been compiled for you to plan ahead. Information to help better understand influenza and a list of suggested products to help aid in the combat of an outbreak.

It's easy to prepare:

1. Simply place an order based on your requirements.
2. Your order will be shipped immediately.
3. In the event a pandemic does not occur and you have supplies from your initial order still on hand, simply return the goods without any penalty or restocking charge.
4. In the event a pandemic does occur and you have not committed to the program, we will be unable to guarantee inventory will be available.

By placing your order today, you can give yourself peace of mind that you have contributed to the preparation of a pandemic occurring.

Following is information relative to influenza pandemic and a list of recommended for the Flu Preparedness Program:

Influenza (Flu)

Influenza (or Flu) is a common respiratory illness affecting millions of Canadians each year. In Canada, flu season usually runs from November to April.

The most effective way to protect you from the flu is to be vaccinated each year in the fall. Regular hand washing is another way to help minimize your risk. By washing your hands often, you will reduce your chance of becoming infected. Thorough and proper cleaning and disinfecting of work spaces, homes, and commonly used areas will also help in reducing your risk of infection.

What is influenza pandemic?

People are exposed to different strains of the influenza virus many times during their lives. Even though the virus changes the previous bouts of influenza may offer some protection against infection caused by a similar strain of the virus. However, three to four times each century, for unknown reasons, a radical change takes place in the influenza A virus causing a new strain to emerge.

Since people have no protection against the new strain, it can spread rapidly around the world, causing what is known as a pandemic. Frequently, the pandemic influenza virus causes severe complications, such as pneumonia and death in previously healthy individuals. The last three pandemics occurred in 1918-19, 1957-58, and 1968-69.

When will the next influenza pandemic occur?

We know influenza pandemics are recurring events but they are unpredictable. It has been 36 years since the last influenza pandemic and although it is impossible to predict with any certainty when the next one will hit, experts agree that we are overdue for one.

How many people would die in a pandemic? Is there anything we can do to reduce the number of deaths?

Depending on the severity of the pandemic, we estimate that between 11,000 and 58,000 deaths may occur in Canada as a result of a new influenza virus. These numbers are based on the assumption that the virus infects between 15 and 35 percent of the population.

As well, the model used to calculate these numbers does not factor in the potential impact of a vaccine or antiviral drugs. We expect these measures would reduce illness and death. Clearly, the number of deaths, as in any influenza season, really depends on how the virus behaves, how it spreads, and what we can do to limit these factors.

It is very difficult to predict the impact of a pandemic. People die from influenza and its complications every single year. Depending on the severity of the season, the number of deaths due to influenza and its complications could reach as high as 8,000 during a regular influenza season.

The Government of Canada is putting in place several measures to protect the health of Canadians. During a pandemic, one of the most important things the public will be able to do to prevent the spread of the virus and reduce its impact, will be to use "good respiratory etiquette". This means doing things like covering your mouth with a tissue when you cough, staying home when you are sick, and washing your hands frequently, especially after touching your mouth, nose, eyes or used tissues.

Suggested Preparedness Starter Kit Contents

92-500M Medium Nitrile disposable gloves 100/box

8511-3M N95 valve particulate mask

4015-1 Miracle Ready-to-use spray & wipes disinfectants 1L

9652 Purell Hand Sanitizer 80z pump bottle

0607010 Kimberly Clark Pre-Saturated Alcohol Wipes