

# Sprint Pandemic Flu Preparedness Tips



## How Should You Prepare?



- Store a two-week supply of water, food and non-perishable items. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand. This can be useful in other types of emergencies, such as power outages, hurricanes, and disaster situations.\*
- Periodically check your regular prescription drugs to ensure a continuous supply in your home and have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.\*
- Limit the spread of germs and prevent infection by washing hands frequently with soap and water; covering coughs and sneezes with tissues, and stay home from work and school if sick.\*
- If you plan to have an extended stay at home, assemble an adequate supply of emergency items, such as, a flashlight, extra batteries, first aid, etc.\*
- Know your community and workplace plans. Find out what your elected officials, workplace, school, congregation and other community groups are doing to prepare for an influenza pandemic.\*
- Load family emergency numbers into your wireless phone and make sure those who need it have your wireless number.

\*Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control

### Stay Informed

Use your mobile phone applications to get the latest news updates from Sprint TV, [www.CNN.com](http://www.CNN.com), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.twitter.com/FluGov](http://www.twitter.com/FluGov).

A Sprint Mobile Broadband Connection Card or Novatel Wireless MiFi 2200 can keep you connected to critical information via your laptop or hand-held personal digital assistant.

Follow [www.twitter.com/sprintnews](http://www.twitter.com/sprintnews) and [www.twitter.com/sprint](http://www.twitter.com/sprint) for up-to-the-minute news on what Sprint's network engineers and Emergency Response Team are doing to ensure wireless service in your area.

## How Should Businesses Prepare?



**The unpredictable impact of a flu pandemic could cause economic 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.**

**Businesses should consider the following to ensure the productivity of their workforce during a pandemic:**

- Assess your particular telecommuting needs for a pandemic situation and scale your remote user capabilities appropriately as employee absenteeism may increase significantly during the peak of an outbreak due to public health quarantines and school closings.
- Enhance your social distancing plans by increasing video, web and audio conferencing capabilities.
- Do not rely solely on residential Internet access to serve employees that plan to telecommute during a pandemic. Supply employees with tools like Sprint Mobile Broadband Cards or Novatel Wireless MiFi™ 2200 devices.
- Ensure that employees who are significant to everyday operations - for instance, information technology and supply chain systems - are adequately equipped to manage their tasks and conduct business as usual with private lines or dedicated Internet backbone or remote access services.
- Similar to what Sprint provides to various businesses and municipalities in collaboration with Cisco, IBM and Microsoft, integrate your telecom operations with a unified communications strategy system which (1) merges employee desktop and mobile phones, so that callers can dial a single number that rings both devices; (2) enables access to a voicemail and email messages via computer software or mobile device, versus checking multiple systems; and (3) allows employees to instantly know which teammates are available and connect to them at any given moment with services like corporate instant messaging or other collaboration tools.
- Learn more about Sprint's converged solutions and unified communications, by visiting [www.sprint.com/convergence](http://www.sprint.com/convergence) or [www.seamlessenterprise.com](http://www.seamlessenterprise.com).

## How Does Sprint Prepare?



**In October of 2005, Sprint's Corporate Business Continuity Office instituted a Pandemic Planning Committee that meets monthly and coordinates efforts in these areas:**

- Business Unit Planning - Requires all individual business units to conduct a Pandemic Impact Analysis (PIA) to assess how pandemic flu might impact the unit.
- Government - Identifies key contacts within government working on building relationships before a crisis situation occurs.
- Environmental, Health and Safety - Manages protocols to prevent the spread of flu among Sprint retail, field, and corporate employees, including hygienic guidelines for cleaning desks/individual workspaces and distancing employees.
- Information Systems - Coordinates telecommuting options to ensure key Sprint employees can continue to work from anywhere.
- Human Resources - Provides guidelines for employee time off and compensation if a pandemic strikes.
- Security - Manages procedures that protect employees traveling internationally from illness.
- Supply Chain - Conducting assessments of key vendors to maintain our access to energy, raw materials and switched telephone network.
- Additionally, Sprint has a strong track record of assisting first responders and emergency officials. During crisis situations Sprint can deploy Cell Site on Wheels (COWs or mobile cell towers), which are self-contained mobile cell sites; Satellite Cell on Light Trucks (SatCOLTS); and Nextel Direct Connect® devices which help facilitate communications for response agencies. Public Safety officials requesting emergency assistance should call the Sprint Nextel Public Safety Call Center at (888) 639-0020. Operators are available 24/7.
- Sprint also provisions public safety customers with Priority Connect on their Nextel phones and sets up command centers at their Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) as necessary.

\* Coverage not available everywhere. See [sprint.com](http://sprint.com) for details. Direct Talk: Terrain, weather, foliage, and man-made structures (such as buildings), among other things, may impact range availability, in-building usage may significantly reduce Direct Talk range. © 2009 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint.