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Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace

JKN partners with Respond Solutions Inc. to make pandemic preparedness training available on the CPKN portal.

With nearly 30,000 confirmed cases of the H1N1 influenza reported in 74 countries, the World Health Organization raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to phase 6 last week. This indicates a flu pandemic is now in effect. While pharmaceutical and regulatory agencies work to produce and register a safe H1N1 flu vaccine, employing basic precautions to slow the spread of the virus is paramount.

Shortly after the emergence of the H1N1 flu in April, CPKN partnered with Respond Solutions Inc. to develop *Infectious Disease and Pandemic Preparedness*, an online course to provide individuals and organizations with essential information to understand how influenza viruses spread and to provide personal preparedness measures to help minimize the spread of infectious disease.

"In an organizational setting, ensuring personnel are informed on the facts of viral transmission can go a long way to minimizing the impact on individuals and the organization as a whole," says Dean DiMonte, Director of Respond Solutions Inc., a company that provides key leadership and implementation strategies in training and emergency management for private and public sectors of business and government. "Taking practical measures to curtail the spread of infectious agents are essential to protecting employee health, maintaining workplace productivity, and minimizing the overall impacts of a pandemic event."

The 30 minute *Infectious Disease and Pandemic Preparedness* course is designed to give the learner an overall awareness and understanding of influenza, infectious disease, and pandemic preparedness. In addition to reviewing the causes, methods of transmission, and impacts of influenza infections, this course describes personal preparedness techniques to help reduce the spread of infectious disease.

In accordance with CPKN's standard pricing model, this course is offered at \$25 per learner, but tiered discounting and licensing options are available for volume purchases.

"Providing this type of training is a short term investment with long term returns," says DiMonte. "Apart from the obvious time and cost efficiencies, the online delivery option that enables employees to access the course from work, home, or anywhere in between is a serious advantage to organizational emergency planning strategies."

For more information and a full course description, please visit www.cpkn.ca/course_detail/pandemic_preparedness_e.html.