



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BOMA CANADA**– Toronto, ON April 28, 2009

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BOMA Canada offers pandemic planning guide for commercial building owners and managers

In response to the recent outbreak of swine influenza in Mexico, BOMA Canada is reminding commercial real estate owners and managers that it has a plan in place in the case of a possible pandemic.

The **Pandemic Planning Guide for Commercial Buildings** (available at [www.bomacanada-pandemic.ca](http://www.bomacanada-pandemic.ca)) offers strategies and action plans with recommended procedures, public responses and standard communication templates to protect tenants in the event of an outbreak.

While BOMA Canada and its partners are not experts in the field of pandemic health issues, the guide was assembled with contributions from a national task force of key industry leaders from major national commercial real estate firms aimed to mitigate the impact of a possible pandemic.

Yesterday, the United States declared a public health emergency in response to 40 confirmed cases of swine flu in New York, California, Texas, Kansas and Ohio.

Canadian agencies have confirmed six cases of the same flu – four in Nova Scotia and two in British Columbia.

Officials are assuring Canadians that the federal government is working closely with the provinces and territories and international partners like the World Health Organization to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

“The federal government will continue to monitor the situation closely to detect any illness as early as possible and ensure Canadians are protected,” said Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health. “Although we are relieved to hear that the Canadians who have been diagnosed with swine influenza exhibited mild symptoms, we will remain vigilant and continue to monitor the situation closely.”

“Canada’s public health system has worked quickly to identify and confirm these cases,” said Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer. “Canada is well-positioned to deal with this issue. We have a national plan for emerging disease outbreaks and we are following it.”

BOMA members are encouraged to review their current pandemic/emergency response procedures with their property and vendor teams.

BOMA Canada will continue to offer updates as they unfold.

#### SWINE FLU

There are simple measures to minimize the risk of being infected.

1. These steps include simply washing your hands frequently -By washing your hands with soap under warm running water, you will reduce your chance of getting the flu. Alcohol-based hand gel can also be used if soap and water are not readily available. It’s a good idea to keep some with you in your pocket or purse when you travel.
2. Practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette -cover your mouth and/or nose to reduce the spread of germs. Remember to wash your hands afterwards.
3. Staying home when sick, and
4. Talking to a health professional if you experience flu-like symptoms.



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To learn more about the flu, contact your local health authority, or visit one of the following websites: Health Canada ([www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)), Public Health Agency of Canada ([www.phac.gc.ca](http://www.phac.gc.ca)), World Health Organization ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)), [www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca).

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada is the voice of the Canadian commercial real estate industry with over 2,500 members in regional associations across Canada. On behalf of the building owners, managers, developers, facilities managers, asset managers, leasing agents, brokers, and the product and service providers to over 1.9 billion square feet of commercial real estate in Canada, BOMA Canada addresses issues of national concern, and promotes excellence in the industry through information, education, advocacy and recognition.

For more information, contact:

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