



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The voice of Canada's commercial real estate industry

In response to the recent World Health Organization (WHO) declaration of the influenza (H1N1) as a Pandemic, 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 offers strategies and action plans with recommended procedures, public responses and standard communication templates to protect tenants in the event of an outbreak.

BOMA Canada's 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.

The WHO has escalated the H1N1 influenza to Phase 6 which is primarily based on the number of cases of the virus and the number of communities affected, and not the severity of the illness. In the case of the H1N1 virus, health authorities have reported that it is a highly contagious, but relatively mild strain of the flu.

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

In accordance with recommended infection control measures by the authorities, continuing to practice good hygiene is the number one way to protect yourself, including:

1. 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.

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), Public Health Agency of Canada (www.phac.gc.ca), World Health Organization (www.who.int), 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.

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