



ATTENTION ASSIGNMENT REAL ESTATE / BUSINESS EDITORS / REPORTERS:

Commercial Buildings in a Pandemic: What's the Plan?

We take them for granted, but most of us enter commercial buildings just about everyday. A workplace, government office, a mall. What if they are not prepared for a pandemic?

Toronto: Good planning is always about being as ready as you can be for a potential event. That's a lesson that BOMA Canada took seriously when it assembled a group of industry professionals to help develop their Pandemic Planning Program. The Association announced today – just in time for flu season – the addition of the Tenant Communication Template to their comprehensive Pandemic Planning website for BOMA members and other stakeholders in the Canadian commercial real estate industry.

The Pandemic Planning website (www.bomacanada-pandemic.ca) was developed to help the industry locally manage building operations in the case of a pandemic, not just H1N1. The original idea for the program came right after the SARS outbreak in 2003 where the possible impact of a pandemic was clearly seen. The website offers a Pandemic Planning Guide, a Property Manager's Toolkit, plus communications templates that can be used to reach the public, tenants and staff.

"The National Industry Pandemic Planning Task Force considered a range of issues impacting property managers in developing the Pandemic Planning Program," says Cheryl Gray, Chair of the Task Force. "With the addition of the tenant communication template to the website, we believe the industry has a complete toolbox to help them prepare, and manage their operations when faced with challenges such as those brought on by a pandemic. Nevertheless, while the comprehensive Guide and Toolkit are more than sufficient for pandemic planning purposes today, the Task Force is also reviewing the documents and will publish any appropriate enhancements to the Plan by the end of the year."

The Pandemic Planning Program is also offering a series of training webinars. The next webinar, will cover **Pandemic fundamentals and the current global influenza situation** and take place on October 27th, 2009 at 1:00 PM Eastern. Ralph Dunham, Senior Vice President, Risk Consulting - Business Continuity Practice of Marsh Canada will be the presenter. Please go to www.bomacanada-pandemic.ca to register.

BOMA Canada is also encouraging members and the public take a FAST approach to H1N1 by:

- F**requently washing your hands
- A**void sneezing or coughing on your hands, use your sleeve
- S**tay at home when sick
- T**alk to a health professional when you experience flu-like symptoms

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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