

Workplace Safety Group

November 2009

Monthly News e-Letter

FDA Warns Consumers about Buying Flu Drugs Online

Governments around the world are emphasizing the H1N1 threat and the need for flu immunization. Now the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers to be very cautious about buying flu drugs on the internet. Many sites that sell drugs on the internet aren't properly licensed to dispense these drugs. They may be distributing medications that aren't appropriate for a patient to take. Such medications may include counterfeit products or those that haven't been approved by the FDA. Furthermore, online pharmacy sites may not be subject to PIPEDA and other medical privacy laws and therefore, won't protect an individual's personal health information.

The FDA urges consumers to talk to their doctors before buying any medication for the first time. Be wary, don't rely on an online pharmacist for diagnoses and ensure that the web site is a licensed pharmacy located in the U.S. or Canada. The FDA has published a useful free pamphlet about online drug websites that you might want to provide to your workers.

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/EmergencyPreparedness/BioterrorismandDrugPreparedness/UCM133237.pdf>



The cold weather has arrived and I'm spending more time in front of the television. I watch a variety of shows including the commercials. I realized recently that, while the commercials may be cute, clever, brilliant, dazzling, stupid or ridiculous, often I don't even know what the product is. In trying to figure out the reason, I came to the conclusion that commercials are often so enthralling that the content recognition is lost.

I'm wondering whether something similar could be happening in health and safety. Are there too many programs, too many choices delivered in too many ways? Are those responsible for safety in their workplaces overwhelmed, if not intimidated by the amount of information available and therefore simply ignore it? It is one thing to understand the need for health and safety programs but quite another to actually proactively implement them. It takes an intentional mental shift to overcome intimidation or complacency.



It's about safe work and working safely!

The WSIB's vision is elimination of all workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses. To help make that vision a reality, **Workplace Safety Group** provides information, resources and sound solutions to help employers purposefully decide to make their workplaces safe.

Questions, Concerns, Comments?
Email Carola Hicks
carola@workplacesafetygroup.com

Workplace Safety Group

November 2009

Monthly News e-Letter

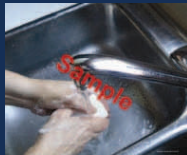
Health & Safety
Posters
For
The Workplace

INFLUENZA
PREVENTION
REMINDERS



OVER 90 POSTERS
TO VIEW

CLICK HERE



Do it for 30 seconds.
Soap and water doesn't kill flu viruses, but it does remove dirt and surface germs that can trap and hold them. Wash your hands thoroughly including between your fingers, the backs of your hands, and fingertips to cut the risk of flu infection.
Safety. It's your responsibility.



If you share it, spray it.
Cleaning your contact lenses, glasses, computer screen and other objects regularly with disinfectant spray can help reduce the risk of flu infection. Remember to use water and soap for at least 30 seconds.
Safety. It's your responsibility.



Wash away the risk.
One of the simplest things you can do to reduce the risk of flu infection is to wash your hands regularly. Remember to use warm water and soap for at least 30 seconds.
Safety. It's your responsibility.



At risk fifteen times an hour.
Without realizing it, you may be touching your face and spreading germs. Each time you cough or sneeze, you are at risk of flu infection. Wash your hands frequently and use a hand sanitizer.
Safety. It's your responsibility.



A drop of prevention.
Wiping or blowing your nose with other people's tissues can spread germs. Remember to use a tissue or handkerchief, or the sleeve of your blouse or shirt. If we all do our part we can limit the impact of flu.
Safety. It's your responsibility.



Cough and sneeze solutions.
Coughing or sneezing into your sleeve or elbow instead of your hand, tissues, or a handkerchief, or the sleeve of your blouse or shirt. If we all do our part we can limit the impact of flu.
Safety. It's your responsibility.

What kind of employer are you? What do you base your decisions on? Do you tend to stick to your biased opinions, thereby allowing unsafe conditions to continue?

- *It is natural to favor information that supports your view. It is very easy to ignore, or not fully and honestly evaluate information that differs from your perspective.*
- *The status quo is familiar. There is often a laissez-faire attitude to continue on the current path especially when no accidents or injuries have occurred in the past.*
- *There is a tendency to make choices that confirm previous inaction*
- *This inaction can lead to a compounding of errors until a serious accident does occur. It is particularly important to guard against this since the negative consequences can be so severe!*

The Ministry of Labour sends out inspectors and targets specific sectors at different times. This month the target is: "Blitz to Focus on Workplace Slip, Trip and Fall Hazards". Read the information on the MOL Newsroom page following the link below.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2009/10/blitz-to-focus-on-workplace-slip-trip-and-fall-hazards.html>

If you still take health and safety lightly it would be worthwhile to follow the link below and check the MOL website regularly for updates on court rulings and fines issued.

http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/news/court_news.html

*Note the message at the end of each and every fine imposed: "The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace ----- . In addition to the fine, the court imposed a 25 % victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime."

This is a compulsory surcharge and is added to each and every fine issued!

It is important to remember that decisions may simply be based on previous experiences and habits which can contribute and result in someone being injured or worse, killed.