



MEDIA RELEASE

Aon warns Australian business to review continuity plans following local outbreak of Swine Flu

Fewer than six in ten businesses prepared for pandemic

SYDNEY, 27 May 2009:

With the increasing cases of human swine flu influenza being diagnosed in Australia, Aon Global Risk Consulting has warned businesses to carefully review their Business Continuity Management arrangements.

“Recent research shows that fewer than six in ten businesses are prepared to face a pandemic such as Swine Flu¹,” said Alan Beard, Principal at Aon Global Risk Consulting.

“Pandemic influenza represents a new type of business continuity risk, impacting a large number of employees rather than physical resources. Existing business continuity plans need to take account of these new threats, such as the reliance on key personnel and access to operating systems.

“Timing is everything for businesses. Given the financial crisis impacting businesses' operations, having a robust continuity plan in place could be the make or break factor for companies responding to both issues simultaneously and surviving intact,” explained Mr Beard.

The following are the key questions and considerations that an organisation should answer to ensure the organisation is properly prepared to cope in light of a pandemic.

1. Is your business continuity plan up to date and are key staff trained in their roles?
2. Does the plan address employee absence effectively and consider the implications of remote working and hygiene control?
3. Are your plans sufficiently well defined and robust to convince your key stakeholders you are looking after their best interests?

Aon has established the *H1N1 Flu Response Resource Site* to provide clients with a central location for information on how to make decisions regarding the welfare of their employees and businesses. Visit <http://insight.aon.com/?elqPURLPage=4100> for more information.

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¹ *A Decade of Living Dangerously* The Business Continuity Management Report 2009. Patrick Woodman and Dr Vidal Kumar, March 2009. Published by the Chartered Management Institute.

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