

H1N1...Is the West Coast ready? NLEC to offer H1N1 preparedness workshop for employers in Corner Brook

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October 6, 2009, St. John's, NL – After having a resounding success with an H1N1 workshop for employers in St. John's, the NL Employers' Council (NLEC) will be offering a similar session in Corner Brook on October 13th. There have been no lab-confirmed cases of H1N1 on the west coast yet, but employers need to be prepared for the possibility of an outbreak. With the possibility of an influenza pandemic looming, employers face not only health concerns, but also a multitude of HR challenges. It is important for all employers to have a proper pandemic plan in place to address these challenges. The NL Employers' Council (NLEC) is offering a half-day workshop on the topic next Tuesday, October 13th at the Glynmill Inn in Corner Brook.

“The response from both employers and the media to the St. John's session was overwhelming,” says Richard Alexander, NLEC Executive Director. “This is an important topic for employers right now and we are excited to offer the session for businesses on the west coast.”

“Employers are being told to prepare for the worst and hope for the best,” says Alexander. According to presenters at the St. John's session, the worst could be a 35% absenteeism rate at the peak of the pandemic. Employers are worried what this level of absenteeism could mean for their businesses. The NLEC workshop will help employers prepare for this issue, along with a host of other HR challenges that could emerge.

In addition to understanding the virus and how to properly contain it in the workplace, the session will educate employers on: how to continue operations amongst increased absences, if and how sick leave policies should be adapted, and providing cross training on essential positions to maintain business continuity.

Speakers at the workshop will include Ruby Barker, Communicable Disease Control Nurse, Western Health; Derek Tilley, Manager, Health Emergency Planning Program, Western Health; and Human Resource representatives from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College.

The half day NLEC workshop, entitled “**H1N1...Are you ready?**”, will take place Tuesday, October 13th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Glynmill Inn in Corner Brook.

For more information and to register, employers should visit www.nlec.nf.ca.

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The NLEC provides advocacy, communication and training for employers in matters that affect the employment relationship.

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