

HATCHING AN EFFECTIVE PANDEMIC PLAN

Both lives and businesses are affected when flu pandemic strikes. Imagine a day when large groups of employees fall ill. Businesses slow down and may be forced to shut down. With the right measures, however, companies can minimise the risks and costs of a flu pandemic.

The **Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Programme** helps companies prepare for any potential disruption to their business. Appointed certification bodies will assess and verify that the measures put in place by companies are comprehensive and effective.

With verification comes both peace of mind and confidence that your company has what it takes to stay in business, should a flu pandemic occur. In turn, your customers, partners and staff are reassured and remain confident in your business and its continuity.

Verified companies can take the next step to full Business Continuity Management (BCM) by implementing the Singapore Standard for Business Continuity Management (SS 540). Beyond the threat of a flu pandemic, SS540 enables businesses to address other disruptions to their operations, including threats in the areas of finance, supply chain and IT network.



Supplying Assurance and Business Continuity in Food

Chew's Farm is synonymous with fresh, excellent quality eggs in Singapore. A member of the Singapore Quality Eggs Scheme, Chew's is a name that Singaporeans trust and its commitment to healthy standards extends to its farm's operations.

With the help of the Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Guide, Chew's worked to set up documentary systems and measures to be put in place should a flu pandemic strike. In December 2009, the company went through the verification process under the Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Programme.

"This programme has given us the confidence to carry on farm operations and continue to supply eggs to our industrial buyers and consumers in the event of a flu outbreak in Singapore," said Managing Director Mr Chew Eng Hoe.

Preventive measures such as temperature checks for all staff will kick in as soon as a flu outbreak is declared. The farm will also close itself to visitors, carrying out business through the phone or electronically instead.

"We will have a system of splitting staff into various groups so that if one group is hit by the flu, the other groups of employees can still continue business operations safely," added Mr Chew. Any employee that could be particularly susceptible to the flu will

be isolated either at home or in specially allocated rooms at the farm.

He added that thanks to the Flu Pandemic Business Continuity Programme, his company feels more positive and empowered. "It is an excellent and comprehensive programme that I would recommend to any company who wants to ensure that a flu outbreak doesn't disable its operations."



Mr Chew Eng Hoe, Managing Director, Chew's Farm

No one knows when the next pandemic will be. Are you prepared when it happens?

Contact Singapore Business Federation at bcm@sbf.org.sg or call **6827 6867** or visit www.sbf.org.sg for more information on the programme. The verification process takes about two man-days and costs \$2,000. With 80% funding from SPRING Singapore, companies need to pay only \$540 (inclusive of GST).