

Industry Advisory

CIP: H1N1 Pandemic Guidance for 2009-2010 Influenza Season and Voluntary Reporting

Initial Distribution: April 29, 2009

Additional Information Distributed: August 12, 2009 and October 27, 2009

There is a risk that human and material resources may be in short supply.

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Status: No Reporting is Required – For Information Only



PUBLIC: No Handling Restrictions

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Instructions: NERC Advisories are designed to improve reliability by disseminating critical reliability information and are made available pursuant to Rule 810 of NERC's Rules of Procedure, for such use as your organization deems appropriate. **No particular response is necessary.** This NERC Advisory is not the same as a reliability standard, and your organization will not be subject to penalties for a failure to implement this Advisory. Additionally, issuance of this Advisory does not lower or otherwise alter the requirements of any approved Reliability Standard, or excuse the prior failure to follow the practices discussed in the Advisory if such failure constitutes a violation of a Reliability Standard.

Distribution: **Primary Send: Primary Compliance Contacts**
All Registered Entities

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Primary Interest Groups: Management, Emergency Planners, Owners and Operators of Critical Facilities, IT Resources, Human Resources

Advisory: Entities in receipt of this advisory are advised to review the updated H1N1 Influenza guidance now available from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Public Health Agency of Canada on their websites at:

U.S. DHS: <http://www.flu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/guidance.html>.

PHAC: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/h1n1/businesses_entreprise-eng.php

As is common practice for other reliability events, entities are also encouraged to report flu-related incidents that may affect the reliability of the bulk power system to the ES-ISAC. In order to facilitate information sharing and preparedness efforts of industry, the ES-ISAC specifically requests that entities report an incident at such time as "critical staffing levels" are reached, or when operations are otherwise at risk..

Any additional information entities may wish to report, such as measures taken to mitigate concerns or especially if assistance is required, will be useful to the ES-ISAC as it works to coordinate overall industry response to the virus.

The ES-ISAC may, upon request, share generalized, aggregated information with government authorities or other critical infrastructure sectors.

Instructions for reporting an incident to the ES-ISAC can be found at:

<http://www.nerc.com/page.php?cid=6|69|316>

The recent declaration of a National State of Emergency for H1N1 signed October 23rd by President Obama does not change this Advisory.

The ES-ISAC estimates that the risk to bulk power system reliability from this threat is currently LOW-to-MODERATE which is based on public health agencies anticipation of the Fall and Winter flu season including the H1N1 pandemic. In light of the changing H1N1 situation, entities are advised to periodically review advice from health authorities.

Background: The August 12, 2009 ES-ISAC Advisory "CIP: H1N1 Influenza Outbreak Update" described an actionable response framework that may be useful in helping to guide decision-making should the severity of the H1N1 outbreak worsen. Since then, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released new guidance specific to anticipated conditions for Fall 2009 through 2010. It is available on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website at <http://www.flu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/guidance.html>. The guidance document includes strategies to use if flu conditions become more severe in addition to recommendations regarding when a worker who is ill with influenza may return to work. It also references the need to plan for possible disruptions to critical supply chains, i.e. human and material resources.

While entities generally have robust plans to manage resources directly within their control, consideration must also be given to addressing effects to those entities within a supply chain that provide material, human resources and services that could affect an entity's ability to maintain continuity of operations.

The following websites provide guidance that may be helpful in managing these risks:

<http://www.talkingbusinesscontinuity.com/bcm-news-and-events/news/pandemic-planning-and-your-supply-chain.aspx>

<http://www.supplychainforum.com/index.cfm?CFID=9057931&CFTOKEN=63931238>

This Advisory is consistent with NERC's expectations that users, owners, and operators of the bulk power system already have plans in place to respond to pandemic influenza, as part of their emergency plans.

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To report any incidents related to this alert, contact:
ES-ISAC 24-hour hotline
609.452.1422
esisac@nerc.com

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