

# Employer Workplace Flu Clinics Can Keep Productivity Levels High

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o one looks forward to flu season, but it's a time of year that is especially challenging for employers. When one employee comes down with the flu, it's usually only a matter of time before most of the workforce starts calling in sick. Projects stall. Productivity levels plummet. And once that happens, all you can do is wait for the flu virus to run its course.

Because of the recognized risk flu season presents, many employers are now taking a proactive approach to protecting employees against seasonal flu. One effective plan is to offer a workplace flu clinic. For one thing, offering a clinic in the workplace makes it easy for employees to get immunized without taking the time to find one on their own or scheduling a doctor's visit. It may also be smart from a strategic standpoint; according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the seasonal flu claims approximately 36,000 lives each year, and new studies show that vaccinating working adults and school age children can help protect those for whom flu poses the greatest risk – infants, seniors and those with compromised immune systems. Healthy adults are encouraged to get vaccinated so that they don't inadvertently become spreaders.

Employers have good reason to host workplace flu clinics this year. With so much talk about pandemic preparedness, protecting employees and their families makes good business sense for many reasons. Offering workplace flu clinics to employees can reduce absenteeism and keep productivity levels on track. But another issue that has come to the forefront for employers is called "presenteeism." Presenteeism occurs when employees come to work sick because they are fearful of lost wages or concerned about job security. As any HR manager can tell you, sick employees who come to work are less effective, more prone to mistakes, and in the case of the flu, highly likely to infect fellow employees, creating an even larger problem. Clearly, the goal of any employer is to keep all employees as healthy and productive as possible throughout the flu season.

To make it simple for employers to offer workplace flu clinics, VaxAmerica, a program of FFF Enterprises, the nation's largest and most trusted distributor of flu vaccine, has streamlined the vaccination process, making it easy and cost-effective for employers to get their workforce immunized against seasonal flu.

"Preventive vaccines substantially reduce both healthcare costs and productivity losses associated with flu outbreaks in the workplace," says Nancy Creadon, vice president, VaxAmerica, Inc. "We make scheduling a flu clinic easy and customizable, with the option of on-site, off-site or a combination of choices that fits each employer's needs."

VaxAmerica is a nationwide network of care sites enabling the safe, easy and convenient administration of preventive vaccines—even those hard-to-get—to individuals or groups at a convenient location near to them. Known for its national reach and local touch, VaxAmerica has simplified the vaccination process to create cost-effective solutions for patients, healthcare providers and health plans.

Because of the recent H1N1 outbreak, flu is currently on the forefront of everyone's minds. For employers, now is an excellent time to plan a seasonal flu clinic, perhaps making an extra effort this season with posters, incentives and other communications to really get the word out. Remember, vaccination is still the best first line of defense against seasonal flu.

For more information about VaxAmerica, call (888) 444-8522 or visit [www.vaxamerica.com](http://www.vaxamerica.com).

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