



## **Business Recovery from a Pandemic Wave** ***Information for Communities and Businesses***

Mandatory restrictions on public and private gathering places (schools, business and community organizations) put in place during a pandemic wave will be reversed in the order in which they were implemented. As community life returns to normal, some of the lingering adverse impacts of the epidemic on businesses are predictable.

### **Lingering Illness**

Many people who have been sick with pandemic influenza will not recover as quickly as they would from seasonal influenza. Fatigue may last for weeks following illness caused by a pandemic influenza strain.

### **Fatigue**

Even those who were not ill with influenza may find themselves fatigued from emotional strain and caring for other people who are sick.

### **Stress and Depression**

During the recovery period, stress and grief reactions that were ignored during the response period may become apparent. Some who have lost family members or co-workers will only begin to grieve during the recovery period. Funeral services which were canceled to avoid disease spread will now be replaced with memorial services. Although most will work through it without help, a substantial number of people would benefit from mental health care. Alcohol use rates often rise during periods of crisis which may continue as a problem during the recovery period.

### **Inventory Recovery**

Those businesses which provided critical infrastructure during a time when manufacturing and shipment of required inventory was reduced may experience shortages of certain types of inventory lingering into the recovery period.

### **Financial Recovery**

Both individuals and businesses may find themselves financially strained by a pandemic wave. Some individuals will have experienced serious loss of income during the pandemic and will be in need of community social assistance. Due to social distancing measures, or delays in financial transaction processing, businesses may find themselves with low cash flow. Short term borrowing may be needed.

### **Response**

Provision of personal time and encouraging at-risk employees to use mental health services will address most employee needs. Restocking of critical infrastructure inventory should be done expeditiously given the potential for a subsequent wave.