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Home > ST Forum > Story  
 April 27, 2009  
 SWINE FLU

## Gauge pandemic plans, take preventive steps

THE swine flu outbreak in Mexico brings back memories of the 2003 Sars outbreak in Singapore.

Most of us do not believe we will be affected, and certainly, based on the existing evidence of the inefficient human-

to-human transmission of swine flu, the possibility appears to be remote. There is no need to be overly alarmed, and we can take the lead from our health authorities.

Nevertheless, while investigations are ongoing, there is no harm taking out our flu pandemic response plans and business continuity plans from the drawer and objectively evaluating our preparedness. This would apply to various businesses, especially our medical clinics.

As responsible individuals, we should also consciously remember and practise basic hygiene measures to minimise infectious disease transmission. These include handwashing, covering our mouths when coughing, and wearing masks in public when we have fever or cough.

We also need to be cognisant of flu symptoms, especially if we travel, and to inform our doctors of any travel to the affected states if we do fall ill.

**Dr Gregory Chan Chung Tsing**  
 President, Occupational and Environmental Health Society, Singapore

### Latest comments

Places with lots of international visitors like Singapore, HK etc will be more exposed to the spread of such diseases. Balancing between business and public health is a difficult act to adopt.

Posted by: singaporeboleh1508 at Mon Apr 27 09:11:07 SGT 2009

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