Webcast: Planning for a Pandemic

The Looming H1N1 Crisis and What It Means for Your Workplace

Presenters: Stephen R. Woods, Esq. and **Melissa Bailey, Esq.**, Ogletree Deakins; and **Mary Andrawis**, Pharm.D., M.P.H., American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

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Program length: 90 minutes

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Health care experts are predicting that a second, and potentially more widely spread, strain of the H1N1 (or swine flu) virus will emerge in the United States and other countries this fall and winter. As last spring's swine flu scare demonstrated, many organizations lack plans for maintaining operations during a pandemic.

This 90-minute program features a panel of expert speakers in health care and employment policy. The first part of the program will feature a discussion of the H1N1 virus; its symptoms and epidemiology; and the prospects for a vaccine. There will also be a discussion of the medical precautions employers can take to discourage the spread of the disease in the workplace.

The second part of the program focuses on employment law issues -- in particular, how employers can deal with the spread of the disease and keep their businesses operating while not conflicting with such employment laws as the OSH Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the National Labor Relations Act.

About the speakers: Dr. Mary Andrawis is the Director of Clinical Guidelines and Quality Improvement at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, based in Bethesda. Md.. Her position includes advocacy to national quality improvement and patient safety organizations, policy analysis, clinical guideline development, and testimony before government agencies to promote the safe and effective use of medications. Her experience in emergency preparedness includes involvement at the department and facility level while at Johns Hopkins Hospital, her public health studies at the School of Public Health and participation in state and national emergency preparedness activities.

Stephen Woods, Esq., is a shareholder at the law firm Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart. Based in Greenville, S.C., Woods has an deep and rich background in preventive employment law work, including assisting clients in avoiding costly HR mistakes. He regularly assists clients throughout the United States on traditional labor (union) issues and employment litigation. Prior to practicing law, he served as the Manager of Administrative Services at The Greenville News, where he managed the HR function for 575 employees.

Melissa Bailey, Esq., is an attorney with Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart. Based in Washington, D.C., she has an extensive background in government relations and labor and employment law, including substantial litigation experience in occupational safety and health matters. She has represented clients before Congress and government agencies on a wide range of labor and employment issues, including wage and hour laws and policy, family leave issues, disability law, occupational safety and health, and labor management issues. She has testified before Congress regarding OSHA issues and has espoused management interests on employment matters including the Fair Labor Standards Act, minimum wage issues and the Family Medical Leave Act. Melissa also regularly represents clients before federal agencies in connection with rulemaking and policy formulation.

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