



Spotlight On:

SIoux CITY FOUNDRY COMPANY



One of the major concerns employers face is absenteeism and drops in productivity due to illness, especially during flu season. Each infected employee may miss up to six days of work and need as many as two weeks to recover full productivity. Worse are employees who try working while sick with the flu, whose impaired performance increases the probability of error and injury, and possibly spread the disease to healthy workers. Nationwide, more than 75 million lost working days annually are attributed to the flu alone, a loss of \$16.3 billion in earnings.



One Iowa business, the Sioux City Foundry Company, has reversed this trend by offering vaccinations to its employees. Although many businesses cite a lack of time for not providing vaccinations to their employees, the Sioux City Foundry has

found that time is not an issue; in fact, all 200 of the company's employees can be vaccinated in less than one hour. In addition, vaccination clinics are conveniently offered before and after shifts so that no employee misses time away from the job. To further save the company time, the health vendor immunizing employees sets up and takes down the clinic, requiring no assistance from Sioux City Foundry personnel.



Having found the time to vaccinate its employees, the Sioux City Foundry has also found that it no longer has to worry about employees missing work, even during the most active weeks of influenza season. This saves the company a substantial amount of money, prevents it from having an unexpected staff absences, and allows it to stay on track with its workload.

"Our flu vaccination program has almost made our absences due to the flu nonexistent, allowing us to continue our production on schedule throughout flu season. It's definitely paid off for our facility," says Valerie Corbin, Director of Human Resources, Safety and Environmental Compliance for Sioux City Foundry.



With its immunization program, Sioux City Foundry demonstrates the effectiveness of staff vaccinations, with benefits that far outweigh their costs. With such little time, effort and cost required to achieve such positive results, immunizing employees makes a sound business case for every employer to have an employee vaccination program.

If you are interested in learning how your business can set up its own employee vaccination program, please contact Safeguard Iowa Partnership at sip@safeguardiowa.org.

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a 501c3 nonprofit involving government, private-sector, higher education and nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to strengthen the capacity of Iowa to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration.

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