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**For the Attention of  
Hospital CEOs, Infection Prevention and Control Leads, Occupational  
Health and Safety leads, Joint Health and Safety Committee, Chief HR  
Officers, Pandemic Influenza Leads**

**From: Greg Shaw, Vice President,  
Strategic Human Resources Management Services**

## **Health Care Section 21 Guidance Notes**

The Ministry of Labour recently approved the release of two new Guidance Notes for the health care sector. The Guidance Notes have been reviewed by the management and labour representatives on the Ontario Health Care Health and Safety Committee, who are appointed under Section 21 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) to ensure that appropriate and consistent information is made available to health care workplaces, supporting them in meeting legislative requirements and recommended best practices.

The two new Guidance Notes relate to:

- Effective Occupational Health and Safety Communications
  - This guidance note provides suggestions and advice for successful communication of health and safety information
- Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Recovery
  - Pandemic H1N1 influenza activity appears to be in decline. Now is a good time to start reviewing your hospitals pandemic plans. This guidance note provides suggestions and information, which should be consider as we move to a possible post pandemic phase.

The material in the Guidance Notes is provided for information only. Reference should always be made to the OHSA and the regulations to ascertain one's rights and duties

under the law. It is the responsibility of all workplaces to ensure compliance with the OHSA and the regulations to seek independent legal advice where questions remain.

The Section 21 Health and Safety Guidance Notes are available from the link below:  
<http://www.oha.com/SERVICES/HEALTHSAFETY/SAFETY/COMMITTEES/Pages/Section21.aspx>

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