



EMPLOYER VACCINATION PROJECT

Engaging Businesses to Reduce Public Health Outbreaks



It is Safeguard Iowa Partnership's mission to strengthen Iowa's capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. This includes preventing outbreaks of disease that can compromise the health of every Iowan. Unnecessarily, thousands of people still become ill, are hospitalized or die every year of diseases for which vaccines are available.

Influenza is one such disease. In addition to compromising the health of every Iowan, influenza seriously impacts the workplace by adversely affecting the lives of employees and costing companies an estimated \$87.1 billion in reduced productivity.

Because of the rising prevalence of influenza and its economic burden, Safeguard Iowa Partnership and the Iowa Department of Public Health have begun a concerted effort to improve vaccination rates among Iowans through the Employer Vaccination Project. Its projected goal is to help employers establish worksite vaccination programs to increase vaccination rates among the workforce population. This will be achieved by the creation of a "toolkit" that provides instructions for interested businesses to implement an Employer Vaccination Program. Specifically, the toolkit will include information on policies, procedures and guidance on billing insurance.



To begin this project, Safeguard Iowa Partnership surveyed Iowa businesses to better understand current vaccination practices, billing capacity, clinic staffing and local partnerships. In examining survey responses, common themes among businesses that provide vaccines to their employees were identified. The most successful programs are usually accompanied by a worksite health program, offer vaccines at an onsite location, offer them free of charge to employees, offer incentives, and have an evaluative component to support continuous improvement.

Conversely, the survey revealed barriers preventing employers from offering a vaccination program, and a negative attitude toward vaccinations. The most commonly cited barrier was cost, followed by a lack of information about vaccination programs. Respondents also mentioned there was no real need to provide vaccinations. The next most common barriers were lack of resources, time constraints, and reported apathy on the part of both employees and businesses. In addition, there are many employers who believe vaccinations are not effective, safe or useful.



The next phase of the project will establish a workgroup through which businesses with successful vaccination programs can share their experiences and comment about how to address the barriers cited by other businesses. All the data will be compiled to aid in the creation of the toolkit.

**To learn more about the project or to join in the effort,
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.

TOGETHER. HELPING IOWANS.

100 EAST GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 165
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309
SIP@SAFEGUARDIOWA.ORG

515-246-1707 OFFICE
515-770-4637 MOBILE
515-246-1701 FAX

SAFEGUARDIOWA.ORG
[TWITTER.COM/SAFEGUARDIOWA](https://twitter.com/safeguardiowa)
[FACEBOOK.COM/SAFEGUARDIOWA](https://facebook.com/safeguardiowa)