

Specialists



We know our business and yours!

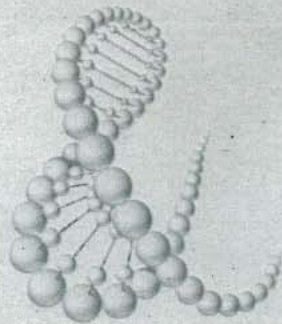
In the industry of mechanical contracting, American Plumbing and Heating has long proven to be the preferred plumbing and heating specialists. We have made a commitment to be the preeminent mechanical contractor servicing the fields of life sciences and biotech industries. As a result, we have gained a stronghold on some of the most complex projects in the field of biotech and biomedical marketplaces. Our work is proven and essential to the areas premier medical and healthcare facilities.

Call us today for more information on our capabilities and long list of completed projects in this field.



72 Sharp Street, Hingham, MA 02043
781-535-1513 • www.amerplumb.com

Biotech • Hospitals • Student Housing • Hotels • Retail • Sports & Entertainment



Collaboration is

Business almost as usual: Operating in a pandemic

BY CHUCK GREEN
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Nicole Stata, founder of **Deploy Solutions** in Auburndale, says the flu is just one of many threats to take into account in the business-planning process.

"Many are concerned that an outbreak of the flu will happen and it's only a matter of when," said Stata, whose company specializes in human resources software. "There are many other threats to business continuity that we are considering at the same time. We balance those with realistic business planning and practices."

Personally, Stata said she doesn't consider the flu an imminent threat. "I'm as concerned about other real threats to business continuity."

However, she said the company has actively created some business continuity plans and have "gained awareness of the nature of the response we would have to have in the case of an epidemic illness."

Hers is one of a few area companies that are taking steps to ensure business continuity in case of a pandemic.

A survey of employed Americans by the **Harvard School of Public Health** found that half of those polled don't expect their workplace to close in the face of a pandemic, even if the government urged companies to do so.

CRESA Partners, a corporate real estate adviser in Boston, sent information to all of its offices on what they can do to prepare, including food storage, said CEO **Bill Goode**.

"We have also equipped all of our people with the ability to work from home if this or other disasters were to occur," he said. "However, by all reports much of the economic damage would be unavoidable and all of us would be badly hurt if it occurs, no matter how much preparation occurs."

Stata said her company recently completed a weeklong health fair, which was a "interactive opportunity" for employees to take advantage of a yoga demonstration, blood pressure

and cholesterol screening, as well as a skin care analysis. Free employee free flu shots also were offered.

In addition, Deploy Solutions strongly emphasizes employee health and employee work life balance and contracts with a proactive employee assistance program (EAP), which Stata said "is another resource for us to rely on in the case of business crisis including the



KATHY CHAPMAN / BUSINESS JOURNAL

Nicole Stata says the flu is one of many threats for which Deploy Solutions plans.

potential of a flu epidemic."

The company also has a formal business continuity plan in place for any kind of disaster — weather or otherwise — upon which it relies in the case of any crisis.

"We have been set up for remote worker access and most, if not all, of our employees can access e-mail and their work-related network files and information from home. Most employees have laptops to also allow for flexibility for where and how they might plan to get their work done."