



### **Under Pressure: 'Presenteeism' Mentality in the Workplace**

- Survey respondents cited a number of economically-driven reasons for why they feel pressured to go to work despite being sick with the flu:
  - 60% are concerned about work not getting done in their absence
  - 48% feel guilty for missing work
    - 56% of women feel guilty for missing work, as opposed to 42% of men
  - 24% get no or minimal sick pay
  - 36% of those with incomes of \$25,000 or less are concerned about job loss
  - 42% of those with incomes of \$25,000 or less are concerned with angering their boss
- 27% of college graduates feel pressure to come to work despite being sick with the flu, while:
  - 41% of those with some college feel pressure to come in to work
  - 39% of those with a high school diploma feel pressure to come in to work
  - 36% of those without a high school diploma feel pressure to come to work

### **The Office: A Breeding Ground for Germs**

- 58% of respondents know of a co-worker that has come to work sick or with the flu this winter
- 30% of respondents said that they have contracted the flu virus from a co-worker

### **Lack of Communication and Preparation in the Workplace**

- 64% of people feel their company encourages employees to stay home if they are sick compared to 75% of those surveyed in a December 2004 survey
- More than 50% of respondents said that their organization does not have a plan in place to prevent the spread of flu in the workplace, yet 55% of respondents were concerned about seasonal or regular flu

### **Bird Flu vs. Seasonal Flu: Concern and Confusion Among Employees**

- 56% of respondents are more concerned about seasonal/regular flu than the potential avian flu pandemic, while 38% are more concerned about bird flu (there have been no confirmed cases of the bird flu in the U.S.)
- Differences existed in the level of concern about avian flu (very, somewhat, not at all) among people of different races:
  - 15% of white respondents said they were very concerned about a potential bird flu pandemic
  - 37% of black respondents said very concerned
  - 35% of Hispanic respondents said very concerned

### **Reaction to Sick Co-Workers**

- When asked which term best describes their sentiments when a co-worker comes to work with the flu, employees responded that they are:
    - Annoyed (40%)
      - 34% of respondents reported being 'annoyed' when surveyed in December 2004
    - Sympathetic (46%)
      - 55% of respondents reported being 'sympathetic' when surveyed in December 2004
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- The Omnibus survey was conducted by CARAVAN® Opinion Research Corporation via telephone. CARAVAN surveyed a national sample of 978 adults (18 years of age and older, employed full-time) living in private households in the U.S. The survey was conducted January 26 – 30, 2006. An additional survey followed February 9 – 13, 2006.
- Another Omnibus survey was conducted by CARAVAN® Opinion Research Corporation via telephone December 10-13, 2004. CARAVAN surveyed a national sample of 1,039 adults (524 men and 515 women 18 years of age and older) living in private households in the U.S.