

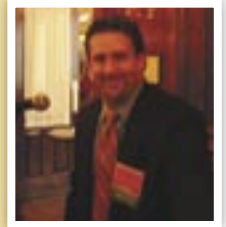
February IFMA Luncheon

What you missed



The February 21st meeting at Maggiano's was an enlightening and somewhat scary review of the Pandemic Influenza. We were given a history of the disease and shown why and how we should be preparing now for its possible impacts. Speaker Sean Kaufman, a behavioral specialist who has worked with CDC, the USPS during the anthrax exposures, and businesses at Los Angeles International Airport affected by SARS, had us exhibit the transmission process by touching two individuals apiece. We quickly spread our "bumps" just like a real pandemic would unfold, with small pockets holding out much longer than the initial impact from starting our disease.

With several important tips for preparing and also practicing for business continuity, Sean made a big impact on our audience. One key learning was that a plan by itself does not equal preparedness. Sean stressed the importance of communication and practice, as well as other behavioral impacts as simple as washing your hands more frequently and implementing alternative and remote scheduling so that workers know how to operate in this manner before a disaster. I know I'm washing my hands more thoroughly now!



Sage Software Tour

About 22 IFMA Atlanta members gathered for the Sage Software Tour on Thursday, February 22nd. Rachel Blankenship and Tim Smith, Toured us through their new facility located in Lawrenceville, GA. The new, custom-designed campus houses approximately 998 employees with future room for expansion. Highlights included: state of the art training rooms, wi-fi wireless access throughout, several conference rooms, a trellis-covered outdoor eating area, fitness room and spacious break rooms. A big Thank you to Steven Swicegood from Gensler who treated IFMA members to a happy hour at the Lofting Leprechaun.

