Follow these tips to avoid costly interruptions caused by a virus outbreak.

1. STAY ALERT
Know your risks by using resources from the CDC, WHO, and an agency local to your region such as your state’s Department of Health or your county’s Emergency Management Agency.

2. CONNECT OFTEN
Communicate frequently with employees, key partners, clients/customers and suppliers/vendors. Consider hotlines, emails, intranets, dedicated websites and social posts.

3. LIMIT EXPOSURE
Implement “social distancing measures.” Minimize in-person meetings and conference attendance and discontinue other nonessential travel.

4. KEEP THE SICK AT HOME
Prepare for absences by cross-training staff and/or obtaining temporary help.

5. PREPARE FOR DISRUPTIONS
Identify alternate suppliers/vendors in case of supply chain disruption.

6. BUILD YOUR PLAN
IBHS’s OFB-EZ business continuity toolkit can help you identify what to do now to prepare for and respond to a virus outbreak. Learn more at DisasterSafety.org/OFB-EZ.