

# Many Employees Come to Work Sick

“**I**n sickness and in health” is a vow typically made in a wedding ceremony, but many workers also live by these words in their jobs, a new OfficeTeam survey shows. Seven in 10 (70%) professionals admitted they frequently go to work when they’re feeling sick. Managers are aware of the issue: Sixty-five percent said that ailing employees head into the office at least somewhat frequently. “Managers should encourage their teams to stay home when they are sick. Let staff know that there’s nothing heroic about spreading colds and flu,” said Robert Hosking, executive director of OfficeTeam. OfficeTeam offers five tips to help maintain a well workplace:

**\* Address the issue head-on.**

Remind staff to avoid spreading illness throughout the office by staying home when they are sick.

**\* Model the behavior.**

If you’re a manager, resist the urge to come in sick yourself. If you do, employees will assume the same is expected of them.

**\* Give “homework.”**

Offer those suffering from minor ailments the ability to work from home, if possible. They may be less likely to come in and infect others if they don’t have to use sick days.

**\* Keep it clean.**

Encourage staff to clean up common areas, like break rooms, and make hand sanitizer available to avoid the spread of germs.

**\* Have a back-up plan.**

Identify team members who can take over responsibilities for sick employees to avoid backlogs. If necessary, hire temporary professionals to keep projects on track. \*