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Issue 2

Post Covid-19 Workplace Newsletter

This biweekly newsletter brings together ideas and opinions from multiple sources on relevant post-Covid topics. This issue features how companies and institutions are preparing for the eventual re-opening of workplaces--specifically, Workplace Design, Technology, and Safety and Security. We hope you find it useful.

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Workplace Design

1. Reopening the Coronavirus-Era Office: One-Person Elevators, No Cafeterias (Wall Street Journal, May 11, 2020)

Companies, in adapting the workplace for Covid-19, are reversing a push to cram workers into tighter spaces. Welcome back to work. The corporate cafeteria is closed. The coffee makers are unplugged. And the desks are separated by plastic. Every part of office life is being re-examined in the era of Covid-19. When employees file back into American workplaces—some wearing masks—many will find the office transformed, human-resources and real-estate executives say. (Full report requires a WSJ login, please go to <http://Factiva> for access instructions.) [Read more...](#)

2. The Unfamiliar Workplace: These Offices might Not Look or Feel the Same when we Return Post-pandemic (Chicago Tribune via Factiva, May 10, 2020)

Masked workers walk through an entrance-only door into the office high-rise, where their temperatures are taken while passing through security. Lines form in lobbies as elevators bring small groups of workers -- each facing a different wall -- to their floors. Touchless doors open into corporate offices, which have been reconfigured to limit close, face-to-face encounters. The offices that people will return to post-pandemic are a sharp contrast from the collaborative work spaces and amenity filled workplaces they walked out of in mid-March to begin working from home. (Full report requires a Factiva login, please go to <http://Factiva> for access instructions.) [Read more...](#)

3. United Minds Forms Workforce Re-entry Specialty to Help Companies Manage Employee Workplace Return from COVID-19 (Cision PR Newswire, May 2, 2020)

United Minds, Weber Shandwick's management consultancy specializing in organizational transformation, today announced a new Workforce Re-entry offering to help CCOs, CHROs, pandemic response leads and their teams re-set and re-integrate employees into the workplace as businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19. [Read more...](#)

4. The Office You Left Is Not Going to Be the Office You Return To (Bloomberg, May 1, 2020)

Your first day headed back to the office will likely feel different from the minute you wake up. Imagine the morning begins with a self-administered Covid-19 symptom and temperature check. An app will report the results to your boss. If all's well, a low-occupancy company provided shuttle will take you to work. Everyone on it will be wearing a mask. Once at the office, a second health check. Attendants will strictly control access to doors, elevators and common areas to prevent close contact. The route around the office will be one-way only. Formerly jammed open desk plans will sit half-empty. You may be encased in a makeshift cubicle made of plexiglass sheets. [Read more...](#)

5. Navigating Your Future Workplace Post COVID-19: A Roadmap (Work Design Magazine, May 1, 2020)

People, policy, and technology are more important than ever; spaces can be adapted to accommodate social distancing, but that only matters if people actually behave that way. So it makes sense to use a people-centric approach in planning the return to the office. [Read more...](#)

6. Goodbye to Open Office Spaces? How Experts are Rethinking the Workplace (National Geographic, April 30, 2020)

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating workers' worries about returning to jobs in these often debated floor plans. [Read more...](#)

Technology

1. Welcome Back to the Office. Your Every Move Will Be Watched (Wall Street Journal, May 5, 2020)

Many Americans heading back to the factory and the office as the coronavirus pandemic eases will soon begin to notice that their every move is being watched or recorded. (Full report requires a WSJ login, please go to <http://Factiva> for access instructions.) [Read more...](#)

2. Why Companies are Looking to Data in the Return to Office Life (JLL, April 29, 2020)

The use of workplace data has grown in recent years as landlords and companies optimise spaces to provide better workplace experiences. But in the coming weeks, as offices shut during COVID-19 lockdowns gradually reopen, workplace management teams and landlords will be increasingly looking to data to help make critical changes to their floorplans and services. [Read more...](#)

Safety and Security

1. Safety Advice for Reopening: How to Reduce Your Risks as Coronavirus Lockdowns Ease (Wall Street Journal, May 3, 2020)

As communities and businesses across the country begin to reopen, more people are weighing whether—and how—they should head into work and, perhaps, visit restaurants, retail shops and hair salons. (Full report requires a WSJ login, please go to <http://Factiva> for access instructions.) [Read more...](#)

2. Well Living Lab, Delos, Cushman & Wakefield and Hines Align to Advance Return-to-Workplace Guidelines in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Businesswire, April 27, 2020)

The Well Living Lab, a Delos and Mayo Clinic collaboration dedicated to researching the indoor environment's impact on human health, today announced a comprehensive plan to study the design and operation of workspaces to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. This will include research

conducted in the lab, along with applications and interventions into corporate offices in the U.S. and internationally. [Read more...](#)

3. What Makes an Office Building “Healthy” (Harvard Business Review, April 27, 2020)

As you prepare for the return of your employees, remember that the scientific models on the spread and containment of SARS-CoV-2 indicate this is a problem we will be dealing with for at least 12 months. Likely approaches to controlling the spread and damage from the virus include a combination of widescale testing, and periodic isolation and quarantine. Some cities and regions will begin re-populating their buildings over the next few weeks, and some will likely be hit with repeated cycles of social distancing. In either case, as employees return to offices, there is a framework companies can deploy to keep people safe without crippling their businesses and our economy. [Read more...](#)

4. COVID-19: Back to the Workplace - Adapting Workplaces and Protecting Workers (European Union, April 24, 2020)

These non-binding guidelines aim to help employers and workers to stay safe and healthy in a working environment that has changed significantly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They give advice on risk assessment and appropriate measures such as minimising exposure, resuming work, coping with absences and managing workers working from home. [Read more...](#)

Newsletter compiled by the Client Services Team of the IMF Library

For questions regarding the content and coverage please contact [Sai Chinnaswamy](#) or [Thierry Kpehor](#)

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