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Issue 7

Post COVID-19 Workplace Newsletter

This biweekly newsletter brings together ideas and opinions from multiple sources on relevant post-COVID-19 topics. This issue features upcoming digital conferences, using technology to enable re-opening the workplace, diversity and inclusion, and school re-openings.

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Upcoming Events and Videos

1. [The Future of Work Series: Digital Conference](#) (FT Live, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, and Nov. 4)
The future of work is now. The global pandemic has forced enterprises to fundamentally change the way they do business, accelerating existing trends in remote working, fast-tracking the adoption of AI and changing employer-employee relations. While many have adapted quickly to a new normal, the sudden transition has exposed shortcomings related to skills, innovation, employment contracts and organisational structures that continue to limit workplace transformation.

2. [The Office Redesign Has Only Just Begun](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 30, 2020)
Plexiglass dividers and floor decals might not be permanent, but the pandemic will bring lasting change to offices. Experts from the architecture and real-estate industries share how they are getting back to work and what offices will look like in the future.

Technology Tracking

1. [Businesses Tap New Digital Tools to Reopen the Workplace](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 30, 2020)
Enterprise information-technology firms are rolling out digital tools designed to help employers deal with a range of workplace issues arising from Covid-19, as companies begin planning for an eventual return to the office. They include workplace apps for employee health checks and contact tracing, among other on-site tools. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

2. [Could You Have COVID-19? Soon Your Smartwatch or Smart Ring Might Tell You](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 28, 2020)
Wearable devices with sensors that continuously gather your temperature, heart rate and blood oxygen could become personal warning systems for the coronavirus. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

Diversity & Inclusion

1. [Coronavirus: Will Women Have to Work Harder After the Pandemic?](#) (BBC World Service, July 14, 2020)

Like many successful career women, Simone Ramos feels she's had to work harder than any man to get to the top. A high-flying executive and risk manager for global insurance group THB in Sao Paulo, Ms Ramos says being a female leader in a male-dominated industry has forced her "to be stronger and rise above myself every day".

2. [Remote Work May Exacerbate Diversity and Inclusion Problems for Companies](#) (Fortune, May 24, 2020)

As more companies shift to remote work following the coronavirus pandemic, management may have to work harder to ensure that all employees are included and have equal opportunity. It's a problem most companies grapple with even in a normal in-person office environment, but the issue can quickly intensify with distance. (Please open this article using Chrome.)

School Reopening

1. [Reopening Schools Try to Decide When They Should Close Again Due to Coronavirus Cases](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 30, 2020)

School districts across the country trying to complete their reopening plans are struggling to figure out what to do if a coronavirus outbreak hits—and how bad it would have to be to cause them to shut schools again. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

2. [Researchers Find COVID-infected Children are Major Carriers, Further Complicating the School-Reopening Debate](#) (Fortune, July 30, 2020)

When it comes to the coronavirus and children, looks may be deceiving. In a study of children under five who show mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19, those kids were found to contain higher concentrations of the virus compared to older children, teens and adults, according to researchers at a Chicago pediatric hospital and Northwestern University. (Please open this article using Chrome.)

3. [The 2020 Back-to-School-But-Stay-at-Home Tech Shopping List](#) (Wall Street Journal, July 26, 2020)

With more students learning online this fall, here's the teacher-approved tech you need for your at-home classroom, starting with a good router, an affordable laptop or tablet and over-ear headphones. Classrooms are going to look a little different in the coming months. As many schools stick with distance learning to prevent the spread of coronavirus, more students will be getting an education from home. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

4. [HBR Readers on Juggling Work and Kids... in a Pandemic](#) (Harvard Business Review, July 22, 2020)

A few months into the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, we reached out to working parents on HBR's LinkedIn Group and asked them to share advice about how they're getting things done in these impossible circumstances. Great ideas flowed in by hundreds from around the globe, and we've collected 18 of our favorites here. Some of the main themes include setting boundaries and carving out time for focus; getting extended family involved; and embracing "good enough" while remembering to play, laugh, and be present.

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