



August 2020

Issue 8

### Post COVID-19 Workplace Newsletter

This biweekly newsletter brings you news and insights from multiple sources on relevant post-COVID-19 topics. This issue features upcoming digital events, returning to a future workplace, and traveling during the pandemic.

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### Upcoming Conferences and Webinars

**1. [The Future of Work Series: Digital Conference](#) (FT Live, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, and Nov. 4)**

Set over a series of three half-day events, the series will explore the evolution of work practices at this crucial time.

- September 1: Technology - Accelerating the digital future of work
- October 6: The Workforce - People, Purpose, Skills: exploring the impact of Covid-19 on workers
- November 4: The Workplace - Rethinking future of work spaces

**2. [The Future of Work Webinar Series: Prioritizing Digital Transformation Strategies Beyond COVID-19](#) (S&P Global Market Intelligence, Sept. 2, Sept. 9, and Sept. 16)**

In this webinar series senior 451 Research analysts Chris Marsh, Sheryl Kingstone and Conner Forrest will present the latest research and data to detail the struggles businesses face and the strategies they can implement to support their workforces in reacting to current unprecedented disruption, as well as preparing for business beyond the COVID-19.

- September 2: Workforce Transformation Into 2021 and Beyond: How Businesses Can Plan for an Effective Future for Work
- September 9: The HR Function in a Time of Disruption: Supporting the Business Beyond COVID-19
- September 16: The Customer Experience is Under Strain: Here's How to Support Your CX Employees

### Returning to a Future Workplace

**1. [How to Prepare for Your Return to the Office](#) (The New York Times, Aug 10, 2020)**

Since the coronavirus hit the United States in the spring, about 35 percent of American workers have switched to telecommuting, according to a recent survey by the National Bureau of Economic Research. And with the end of summer fast approaching, you may be wondering about your return to the office — should you return at all. (Full report requires a Factiva login, [access instructions](#).)

## [2. The Hidden—but Very Real—Cost of Working from Home](#) (Fortune Magazine, Aug 10, 2020)

In a time of social distancing and remote work, Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon raised a surprising topic during his latest earnings call with Wall Street analysts: togetherness. While many CEOs seem in no hurry to refill their office buildings, and several have told employees they need never return to the office, Solomon made it clear that he wants his colleagues back in the office as soon as is safely possible. He himself has never stopped going to the office through the pandemic. (Please open this article using Chrome.)

## [3. Return to Work COVID-19 Testing Considerations](#) (National Law Review, Aug 10, 2020)

As employees increasingly transition back into the physical workplace, employers have begun to grapple with whether and how to deploy COVID-19 diagnostic testing as a return-to-work solution. Many employers want to avoid extended employee quarantine or isolation requirements that prevent their employees from returning to the office for weeks and disrupt their operations. But is this potential solution legal? And is it effective?

## Travel

### [1. JFK Airport Tests Thermal Imaging to Screen for Signs of Covid-19](#) (Wall Street Journal, Aug 12, 2020)

In voluntary program, passengers with a reading above 100.4 degrees F can choose to give details of their flights, and boarding is at discretion of airlines. John F. Kennedy International Airport's busiest terminal is testing thermal imaging technology to screen passengers departing from New York City for signs of Covid-19. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

### [2. Traveling May Not Be Safe, but Leaving Vacation Days Behind Isn't Healthy, Either](#) (The Washington Post, Aug 12, 2020)

It's no secret that in the midst of a global pandemic, Americans are anxious. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on mental health in the United States has been well documented by Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls monthly, with 53 percent of adults saying in July that "worry and stress" related to the pandemic have negatively affected their mental health. (Full report requires a Factiva login, [access instructions](#).)

### [3. Thinking of Skipping Vacation? Don't!](#) (Harvard Business Review, Aug 11, 2020)

Many of us have had our summer vacation plans cancelled due to the pandemic. Perhaps you planned to visit family or take your annual beach vacation. Or maybe you were scheduled to celebrate a milestone with big trip — a food and wine tour of France or an African safari. Whatever your thwarted plans entailed, you might be thinking of skipping a vacation altogether. And given that productivity has been hampered for many of us over the last few months, it's easy to think, "I should keep working, so I can get more done," or "What's the point? I can't really go anywhere." (Contact the [IMF Library](#) if there are access issues.)

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