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Issue 5

## 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 how organizations are preparing for the return to the office, and how they can foster employee health and well-being during and after the pandemic.

### Contents

Return to the Office.....	1
Health and Well-being .....	2

### Return to the Office

**1. [How Banks are Planning to Bring Staff Back to the Office](#) (Financial Times, June 23, 2020)**

In a series of interviews with the Financial Times, executives described different strategies on everything from how to move staff to and from the office, to supplying personal protective equipment, managing how employees move around in the office and rotating teams. (Full report requires a FT login, [access instructions](#).)

**2. [Why your 'New Normal' Strategy May Be Flawed](#) (HCA Magazine, June 23, 2020)**

How is your organisation preparing for the 'new normal'? A new study by Achievers reported that as the pandemic is still ongoing, we're hardly in the 'recovery' stage of the crisis and should make careful considerations – particularly while planning a return-to-work strategy.

**3. [New Yorkers Now Can Return to the Office. Most Are Staying Away](#) (Wall Street Journal, June 21, 2020)**

New York City will allow companies to reopen their offices on Monday after a three-month lockdown from the pandemic. Few employees seem ready or willing to go back. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

**4. [The Post-Pandemic Enterprise: What Will it Be Like?](#) (Wall Street Journal, June 19, 2020)**

Nations have been mostly focused in the near term on surviving the massive disruptions caused by Covid-19. But what about the longer term? What will the post-pandemic new normal be like for societies and economies? More specifically, how will the pandemic impact the world of business? (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access instructions](#).)

**5. [Recovery Guidelines for Buildings - China Practice](#) (Cushman & Wakefield, June 17, 2020)**

Greater China has been at the forefront of returning buildings and their inhabitants to work following the COVID-19 outbreak. For the return to be as seamless as possible, teams on the ground have found it essential for there to be watertight processes in place covering the end-to-end return

process, from public space management to workplace return to facilities management and waste disposal.

**6. [A Guide to Thriving in the Post-COVID-19 Workplace](#) (World Economic Forum, May 18, 2020)**

The pandemic has accelerated the need to ensure that people around the globe have the necessary technology skills and access to do their jobs. The current picture is bleak — and many parts of the world still haven't felt the pandemic's full impact. However, recovery will come, so what should individuals be doing to make sure they can come back to the workforce stronger?

**7. [From Thinking About the Next Normal to Making it Work: What to Stop, Start, and Accelerate](#) (McKinsey & Company, May 15, 2020)**

What's next? That is the question everyone is asking. The future is not what we thought it would be only a few short months ago. In this article, we set out seven actions that have come up repeatedly in our discussions with business leaders around the world. In each case, we discuss which attitudes or practices businesses should stop, which they should start, and which they should accelerate.

## Health and Well-being

**1. [Well-being the Next Big Leadership Challenge](#) (The Australian Financial Review, June 25, 2020)**

Workplace experts say employee well-being and mental health will be one of the biggest issues facing leaders in the post-pandemic world, and employers who haven't responded well during the COVID-19 crisis are in for a bumpy ride. (Full report requires a Factiva login, [access instructions](#).)

**2. [Covid-19 Has Created a Surge in Anxiety, but also in Gratitude and Perspective](#) (Modern Health, June 23, 2020)**

Modern Health study finds mental health support is needed now more than ever as employees confront Covid-19 and systemic racism.

**3. [Reset: What do Employees Need to Feel Confident and Supported in a Changed World?](#) (PwC, June 15, 2020)**

Business leaders are investing in new safety protocols and well-being initiatives to help their people navigate a changed work environment. But amid a health crisis, economic uncertainty and social unrest, many employees simply aren't feeling comfortable returning to the office or confident in their ability to do their jobs. PwC surveyed more than 1,000 American workers nationwide during the week of June 9, 2020. The results reveal the need for a reset.

**4. [Fostering Employee Productivity and Morale Through COVID-19](#) (McKinsey & Company, June 12, 2020)**

As the uncertainties caused by COVID-19 continue to disrupt work environments, business leaders must be mindful of how they can improve employees' mental health and morale. In this podcast, McKinsey's Tom Welchman discusses several issues that leaders can keep in mind as they try to support employees and help them adjust to the next normal.

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