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## COVID-19 Workplace



May 2021

Issue 17

### COVID-19 Workplace Newsletter

Welcome to the May edition of the COVID-19 Workplace newsletter, where we highlight the latest content for managers to consider as they plan to re-open. This month we focus on the hybrid workplace and workforce strategies for the future of work.

If you are interested in the articles below, please contact the [IMF Library](#).

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#### Office Strategies

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##### 1. What Executives Are Saying About the Future of Hybrid Work

**(McKinsey & Company, May 17, 2021)**

Organizations are clear that postpandemic working will be hybrid. After that, the details get hazy.

##### 2. Grabbing Hold of the New Future of Work

**(McKinsey & Company, May 14, 2021)**

(Podcast) The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped existing workforce trends and catalyzed new ones. Here’s the latest on what’s next—and what to do about it.

##### 3. The New Normal: Working in a 1.5 Meter Economy

**(PwC Netherlands)**

Even though restrictions regarding COVID-19 will be imposed when possible, as long as there is no vaccine, an economy of 1.5 meters will be maintained. How the new way of working will look like is still a question, but we do know one thing for sure and that is that it won’t be the same as before. It is expected that this will also affect the adoption of AI, Robotics, Cloud Computing and IoT.

## Workforce Challenges

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### [1. Workforce Strategies for Post-COVID-19 Recovery](#)

**(Harvard Business Review, May 12, 2021)**

Organizations' first priority in crisis response has been ensuring the health and safety of workers. Now, as organizations begin to emerge from this phase, leaders are focusing on the next set of workforce challenges as they plan for recovery.

### [2. Manage Employee Mental Health in a Post-COVID World](#)

**(Forbes, May 11, 2021)**

There's no denying the pandemic has affected the mental health of Americans. The KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor from March 2021, for example, reveals that 47 percent of adults are experiencing negative mental health impacts as a result of the pandemic. Employers who are invested in their people and culture will have introduced new initiatives, practices, and ways of working to support their employees during this disruptive time.

### [3. Should You Go Back to the Office?](#)

**(The Wall Street Journal, May 9, 2021)**

It can be a complicated choice for those lucky enough to have a job, with mental health, physical fitness and professional prospects to consider. After months of experimenting with remote work, your company is calling you back to the office. Should you go? (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access](#) instructions.)

## Hybrid Workplace

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### [1. How to Do Hybrid Right](#)

**(Harvard Business Review, May-June 2021 issue)**

When designing flexible work arrangements, focus on individual human concerns, not just institutional ones. Since the pandemic, companies have adopted the technologies of virtual work remarkably quickly—and employees are seeing the advantages of more flexibility in where and when they work. As leaders recognize what is possible, they are embracing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reset work using a hybrid model.

### [2. 4 Ways for CIOs to Implement Hybrid Working in 2021](#)

**(Gartner, March 26, 2021)**

The future of work will require CIOs to rethink how work is done, reimagine office space and manage new risks. Over a year into large-scale remote work, it's become clear that CIOs must rethink IT operating models to prepare for the long-term changes resulting from the pandemic.

### [3. Hybrid Work](#)

**(Statista, 2021)**

The hybrid work dossier provides an overview of the technologies underlying and enabling hybrid work models. The segments included explore the information technology infrastructure and hardware needed for hybrid work. Data on the usage of the industry's products is provided to illustrate the current state of deployment of applications and software. Finally, an outlook chapter generates insight into future trends and developments regarding security, IT infrastructure, and spending, as well as providing market forecasts. (Full report requires a Statista login, request access [here](#).)

## Others

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### **1. How to Wean Your Kids—and Yourself—Off Screens**

**(The Wall Street Journal, May 15, 2021)**

Now is the time for a digital reset to undo bad tech habits you and your kids developed during the pandemic. After more than a year of being glued to their devices, a lot of kids will have trouble easing up on the tech that brought them comfort and connection during the pandemic. It's also hard for many adults to put down their devices, which is why I'm offering tips from experts on how families can do a digital reset together. (Full report requires a WSJ login, [access](#) instructions.)

### **2. Workplace Reopenings Stalled by Unclear Safety Rules**

**(Politico, May 6, 2021)**

Although the CDC said that vaccinated Americans only need to wear a mask when gathering in indoor public places, it's unclear how that applies to private workplaces like factories and offices.

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