Reactivating the Workplace Post COVID-19

Unlike anything we have ever seen before in our lifetime our buildings, workplaces, and our behaviors will be impacted by the aftermath of COVID-19.

What can we be doing now to prepare our facilities and our people?

Planning for the safe return of employees to the workplace is causing businesses to immediately re-focus on preparedness efforts as priority. Business leaders will heavily rely on facilities and HR for complete assurance that plans are in place so that employees can safely return to work.

Workplace re-activation planning starts with a strategic development of a preparedness strategy, identification and planning for new behavioral protocols and training for employees, and physical facility changes to ensure a safe workplace. Consider the totality of creating a safe employee experience:

1. **PREPAREDNESS & TRAINING**
   - How will our facilities, real estate, and HR teams mobilize to urgently address necessary changes? Who will help action on viable preparedness strategies?
   - What new behaviors will we ask of our people to keep everyone safe? What change management and training will be necessary to ensure new norms are adopted?

2. **ENTRY / LOBBY**
   - What must be done to our elevators, stairs, and entry doors to help employees safely distance themselves while arriving and departing our facility? How will staggered starts and new office hours help with density monitoring? How will visitor protocols be impacted?

3. **WORKPLACE STRATEGY & DESIGN**
   - How will workspace density change on each floor, each building, and throughout the real estate portfolio? How will new workplace strategies and occupancy planning scenarios help manage to safe occupancy levels? What design changes must occur? What must change in shared workspaces?
   - How will Work from Home (WFH) practices change?

4. **AMENITIES**
   - How will social distancing and new sanitization guidelines impact fitness centers, café areas, mother’s rooms, phone rooms, and other building amenities?
   - How will training rooms, auditoriums, and conference room densities change?

5. **BUILDING SYSTEMS**
   - What modifications can be made to existing HVAC and building systems to improve indoor air quality? How can touchless features aid in reducing virus spread?