

COVID-19 SAFER SPACES PLANNING TIPSHEET 1



Preparing for a return to work and public places Separated but together

How are you preparing your facilities for the return of your employees? The COVID-19 crisis will change how we come together in workplaces and public spaces.

Restrictions will be lifted gradually and in stages with conditions for preventing disease transmission among employees and the public. At the same time, employees and customers will want to know everything possible has been done to prevent infection.

KRJ Design Group regularly works with clients to program their spaces with both planning and fixtures, as needed.

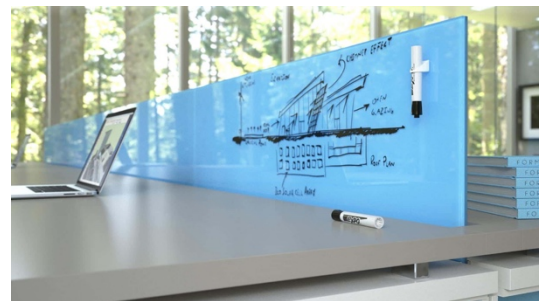
While “social distancing” is called for, we know that simply keeping people six feet apart isn’t fully effective for avoiding virus, which transmits through the air and on surfaces.

Also, many spaces are just not large enough. Stories of long lines of customers waiting outside of a bank that didn’t want anyone waiting in a lobby prompt us to look for other solutions.



Surfaces: Smooth vs. Porous

The new standard for workplace furniture calls for products made of materials that are easy to sanitize, while also matching the design aesthetic of the space. Glass products answer the call well. Due to the non-porous and antimicrobial properties of glass, glass’s hard surfaces can be wiped clean of all germs and bacteria with bleach or other harsh chemicals without damaging the integrity of the product. Plexiglass, acrylic, traditional whiteboards, and other laminate surfaces are porous, making them a breeding ground for bacteria. While these materials may be hard to clean thoroughly, glass sets the standard for cleanliness.



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Divide to Conquer

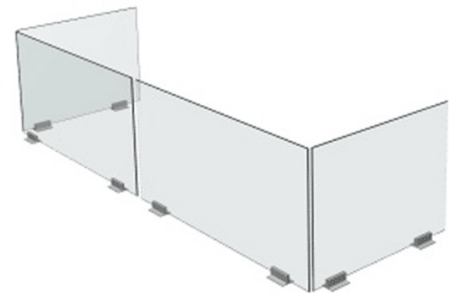
Heat shields: Keep your receptionist areas safe while welcoming visitors to your office with a non-porous cough/sneeze barrier between receptionists and visitors that can be easily cleaned and disinfected. It will be important to not settle for a porous material that is hard to disinfect. Porous materials such as acrylic and plexiglass harbor bacteria and scratch easily.



The trends of open office space and collaborative huddled desks are probably over. How do we densify workstations and create distance and barriers between employees when we don't have budgets or lead time to purchase all new workstations? New standards will consist of non-porous, hard surface screens, and dividers to act as cough/sneeze barriers between desks.



Corona virus appears to favor smooth surfaces over porous ones; however, smooth surfaces are easier to sanitize. KRJ is designing Safer Spaces with a strategic mix of both.



Employees are now looking for protected and divided workspaces. Dividers can be introduced to act as a cough/sneeze barrier between workspaces and can be customized to reach various heights.

Benefits beyond infection control: Dividers and partitions can be either fixed or wheeled. They can serve as noise control, places to hang monitors for Internet meetings. They can feature white boards, bulletin boards, and glass to let in light.



KRJ Design Group's Safer Spaces sign means a space has been evaluated for infection-control best practices. Contact us to discuss your infection-prevention office planning. We can help! Call 650-525-3700 ex. 1 or email andrea@krjdesign.com



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