



Returning to the Workplace Safely

What Should You Consider?

Dear Valued Customer,

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath will be one of the biggest business challenges of our time. While most companies already have continuity plans in place in case of catastrophic events like fires, earthquakes, and other disasters, few were prepared for the level of disruption caused by COVID-19.

While the pandemic is not over, businesses and institutions across the country are now tasked with opening and operating as safely as possible.

The health and safety of your workforce will be the top priority in considering how to bring operations back to some semblance of normal. This is, of course, a moral, ethical, and legal concern for all companies. And from a business perspective, safeguarding employees' well-being is paramount because they are essential to resuming operation.

In most cases, you and your colleagues are returning to work in a measured approach. The first step is ensuring that facilities are safe for employees to return to work, and the second step is the actual return of employees. Throughout this pandemic, the Fisher Scientific team has been working hard to provide the products necessary to keep our frontline workers safe. We're here to help as you safely transition your team back to work.



Contact your Fisher Scientific Sales Representative

Name:

Phone:

Email:



Are You Prepared?

Preparation is key to safe working practices. Until now, workers and safety managers have been most concerned with occupational hazards related to bodily injuries and work-related conditions that result from long-term exposure, such as respiratory ailments from airborne particulates or hearing damage from elevated sound levels.

This pandemic poses a new threat to workers. While many workplaces were prepared for traditional risks like fire, occupational injuries, and harassment, they now must address a contagious disease and the anxiety and unique risks it poses. Dealing with these new risks requires an approach that accounts for just how complicated they are.

Provided below is an overview of a two-step approach for safely returning to work. The Fisher Scientific channel can help you create a safe environment for your employees. The list may not be all encompassing, but it will provide you with information as you build and assess your back-to-work plan.

Step 1: Preparing for Reentry

Step 1 outlines considerations, products, and services that you'll need to prepare your facilities to be a safe environment for returning employees.

- **Facility entrance:** Determine how employees will enter the facility. Will they be routed through the main entrance or through an isolation room where they can be screened before entering?
- **Pre-screening:** Determine the pre-screening protocol and requirements. Prompt identification and isolation of potentially infected individuals is a critical step in protecting workers, customers, visitors, and others at a worksite.
- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Determine the PPE you need to minimize the risk of contamination and virus transmission. Your PPE needs will likely be different than they were before — the risk of contagion requires heightened awareness and a plan for securing the necessary supplies.
- **Safety signs and floor markings:** Post wall signs and other visual cues to assist in reminding everyone of COVID-19 hygiene, social distancing, traffic flow, and stay-home protocols.
- **Social distancing training:** Rethink your workspace and rearrange as needed to help employees maintain a proper social distancing space (at least six feet) as work duties permit.
- **Cleaning protocol:** Revisit your normal cleaning practices and enhance cleaning of both shared and personal workspaces. The new work routine should prioritize hand washing and cleaning of multiple areas, including:
 - Tools
 - Workstations and equipment
 - Common surface areas
 - Computer screens and keyboards
 - Restrooms
 - Cafeterias
 - Lockers
 - Doors
 - Railings
- **Training:** Educate and train employees about any new processes to help alleviate their fears and anxieties that can negatively affect morale, productivity, and safety.
- **Regular monitoring:** Continually monitor your processes and supplies and modify them as requirements and circumstances change.

Step 2: Returning to Work

With your facility prepared for a safe return, use the Step 2 outline to help identify additional items that employees will need to get up and running confidently. Double check the following categories and make sure you have all the supplies you need.

Products for the facility entrance

- Staging area for employee entrance — potential isolation room
- Negative-pressure, HEPA-filtered isolation

Pre-screening products

- IR thermometer
- Personnel management systems, including contact tracing

Non-sterile and sterile PPE

- Masks for all employees and visitors
- Face shields
- Safety glasses
- Respirators
 - N95
 - PAPRs
- Gloves
- Isolation gowns or coveralls
- Lab coats
- First aid kits, which can be modified to include:
 - ASTM-compliant disposable examination gloves
 - NIOSH-approved N95 face masks
 - Surgical masks and face shields

Upgraded signage

- Hygiene reminders
- COVID-19 signage
- Floor markings

Social distancing aids

- Cones, posts, or physical barriers
- Mobile and stationary plexiglass partitions
- Mats marked for distancing

Cleaning and sanitizing products

- Sanitizing systems for mass cleaning needs
- Sanitizers
- Hand soaps
- Sanitizer and soap dispensers
- Sanitizing wipes
- Dry wipers
- Biosafety bags and containers
- Autoclavable matting
- Tacky mats
- Portable wash sinks

Services

- SafetySkills™ training, an online platform that provides training courses for your entire organization prior to returning to work
- Industry-leading product information and support
- Ansell Guardian Program, which can assist with reviewing PPE requirements and ensuring that your facility is equipped for safety
- Assessment and repair of eyewash and shower stands (On average, three out of four eyewash stands do not operate properly or meet OSHA guidelines. Now that many of the stands may have been idle, it will be necessary to assess and repair them.)

Visit fishersci.com/safety or fishersci.ca/safety or download the **Fisher Scientific Facility and Lab Safety Catalog** to explore more products to help keep your people safe and productive.

If you have any questions or need help finding the right products for your facility, contact your Fisher Scientific sales representative.

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