

Johnson and Washington Execs Can Rely on Data to Inform the Return to the Office Decision

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Some companies can and have enabled working from home during COVID-19, but others require a factory or office environment for their teams. Companies facing hard decisions about returning to the office need help not only with data to inform their decisions but a framework of guidelines that provide appropriate safety measures.

The over data – number of cases in a given county or even state – flows in every day. Counties turn green, then amber, then red and back and forth with no discernable end in sight. The pandemic won't be over until it's over, and many believe this includes even after an effective vaccine is distributed to the general public. Most of us want to know if our county is safe and if our workplace is safe. Do we go back to work, stay at home or take a hybrid approach?

No one can guarantee viruses won't be spread, but executives can use data to make educated decisions about the return to office question. Data helps us understand that we're doing everything we can to stop the spread of the virus. Data confirms compliance with state and federal regulations with measurements of such things as mask use, occupancy sensing and contact avoidance. In addition, software apps send push notifications, give tips on recognizing symptoms and support contact tracing.

Can you take proactive mitigative steps to comply with regulations and guidelines and demonstrate a factor of care? Stanley Consultants has developed a Covid 19 response and recovery tool kit that curates 50 virus mitigating measures in four categories. This includes a digital tabletop review and an on-premise inspection.

The four categories of readiness are:

- **Air quality** - Increasing air system filtration rates and achieving ideal humidification ranges can help to mitigate the spread of viruses.
- **Safe water** – Water system sensors and technologies readily available in the market today help businesses assess their water quality and the potential for Legionnaire's Disease that can be derived from stagnant water.
- **Clean surfaces** – With prescriptive cleaning programs, UVC cleaning, touchless plumbing fixtures, kiosks, digital signage and wayfinding solutions, building owners reduce the potential of virus spread from surface contact.
- **Connected Humans** – Facilitating compliance around mask detection, occupancy sensing, contact avoidance, contact tracing and ADA accessibility are all concerns that business owners are worried about. Employees benefit from receiving increased protection in the form of training, social media awareness, mobile monitoring, symptom recognition, push alert notifications and advanced detection protocols.

The pandemic is a way to make for healthier buildings in general, which will further protect our work forces and their families and promote a healthy, productive workplace. A COVID-19 mitigation program then morphs into more effective virus mitigation practices into the future.