

10-Step **building hygiene** checklist

What to consider before reopening



As people return to work, it's important to reassure them about the cleanliness and hygiene of your facility. Before you reopen, consider whether there are any local regulations on SOPs for reopening your facility. In addition, you may consider to follow the below steps.

1. Make sure your water system and devices are safe.¹

After a prolonged shutdown, stagnant or standing water can cause conditions that increase the risk of waterborne illnesses.

2. Create a "limited-touch" environment.

Reduce contact with frequently touched surfaces via automatic systems such as sensor-activated door openers and electronic washroom dispensers. Consider simple hygienic upgrades like placing paper towels or tissues next to washroom exits for use on door handles.

3. Ensure that your cleaning staff is trained on new protocols.

Do they understand the difference between cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting? Do they know how to reduce the risk of cross-contamination and address "hot spots"? Make sure all protocols are implemented properly before reopening your building.

4. Establish screening procedures.

Will you conduct health screenings for everyone who enters your building? What about temperature checks and virtual signins via QR codes?

5. Maintain social distancing.

What is the minimum safe distancing you should implement? The CDC recommends that workspaces are at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart and consider reducing the number of chairs in a meeting space or conference room.²

6. Rethink unassigned workspaces and shared equipment.

The CDC recommends that workers avoid using desks, work tools or equipment used by other employees.³

7. Post hygiene information throughout your facility.

Include hand hygiene tips and details about screening procedures, cleaning protocols and when an area was last cleaned to reassure people about the steps you are taking to provide a safe and hygienic environment.

8. Keep critical supplies well-stocked.

Make sure you have sufficient quantities of soap, bathroom tissue and other items. Also consider adding amenities to promote hand and surface hygiene such as hand sanitizer stands and personal disinfectant wipes for desks, phones and keyboards.

9. Develop a response plan in case someone in your building becomes ill.

Identify a space where the person can be safely isolated and have a plan for transferring them to a health facility.⁴

10. Consider enhancements to indoor air quality.

An EPA report found that installing a system designed to improve indoor air quality in an office can lead to increased productivity, fewer lost work days and medical cost savings.⁵

¹ CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

² CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

³ CDC, <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3390.pdf>

⁴ World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf>

⁵ Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/office-building-occupants-guide-indoor-air-quality>

⁶ Information contained here are recommended best practices, and do not supersede any recommendations or regulations mandated by local laws and regulations.

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