

# BACK TO THE WORKPLACE

## HELPFUL ADVICE ON PLANNING THE RETURN TO THE WORK ENVIRONMENT



TRANSWESTERN

REAL ESTATE  
SERVICES



### SETTING EXPECTATIONS

#### WHAT SHOULD A COMPANY KNOW TO RETURN TO THEIR OFFICE?

- Companies should expect different protocols based on geographies, building specifications, service providers, and landlords
- There will not be a one size fits all, and more than likely will be organized around time horizons and investment requirements—short, medium, long term.
- Communicating early with landlords to understand what they will address is critical to planning and preparing for the return to the workplace.



### PREPARING THE BUILDING

#### WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM OUR BUILDING AND LANDLORD(S)?

##### Potential changes include:

- Worker safety at the building and in the workspace
- Reanalyzing HVAC, Fire/Life Safety
- Update cleaning procedures including frequency
- Completing Inspections, remediations and repairs before reopening
- Strategy to control entry points including building lobby, reception, shipping/receiving
- Implementing visitor policies to the building and tenant spaces
- Establish Protocols for Health Checks
- Determine elevator use to comply with social distancing



### PREPARING THE WORKFORCE

#### HOW SHOULD WE ASSESS WHO RETURNS TO THE WORKPLACE VS. WHO STAYS HOME?

- Return employees in waves by deciding who returns immediately versus working from home  
**For employees returning, consider staggering days/shifts to maintain occupancy rates less than 70% and support social distancing of greater than 6'**
- Communicate consistently with employees to help manage expectations, emotions and regulations
- Update on company policies and procedures and provide required training



### WORKING TOGETHER

#### WHAT ACTIONS CAN WE TAKE TO HELP OUR TEAMMATES FEEL SAFE?

- Establish two-way communication between leaders and employees
- Foster a trusting and transparent culture
- Set clear employee expectations on protocols
- Establish comfort in posting signs and sharing vulnerability
- Decrease density
- Designate foot-traffic patterns
- Prohibit shared use of small spaces
- Limit in-person meetings
- Enhance cleaning and disinfecting practices
- Utilize touchless ingress/egress
- Establish work space cleaning protocols
- Institute clean desk policy
- Consider low/no touch fixtures/tools
- Establish food/kitchen plan