13 Tactics to Keep Your Workplace Safe from COVID-19

If you ask anyone who works in EHS, protecting workers is the top priority. But what happens when this is beyond your control? What happens when there is nothing you can do to ensure your team is protected? This is what the world is now facing in the wake of the coronavirus.

According to our research and recommendations from the World Health Organization[1], here's what you can do right now to protect your team and make your workplace a little safer:
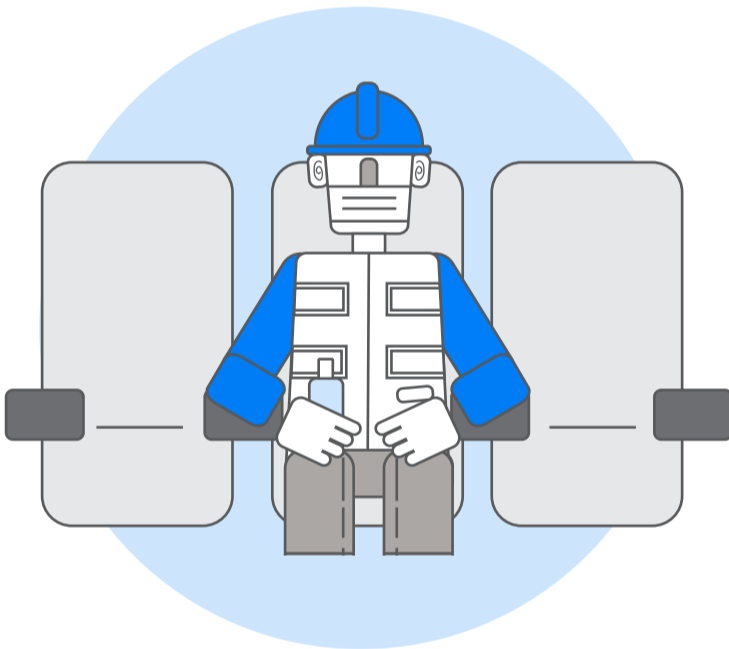
HANDWASHING

Take handwashing and surfaces seriously:

— Provide all team members with areas to wash their hands, as the virus is killed when exposed to soap and water

— Make hand sanitizer readily available and wipe down areas which are used by several people such as door handles, knobs, and buttons at the beginning and end of each day

— Post signs and posters around the office to encourage regular handwashing

— Request that employees refrain from shaking hands with others

— Ask team members who are sick to stay at home, as a precaution
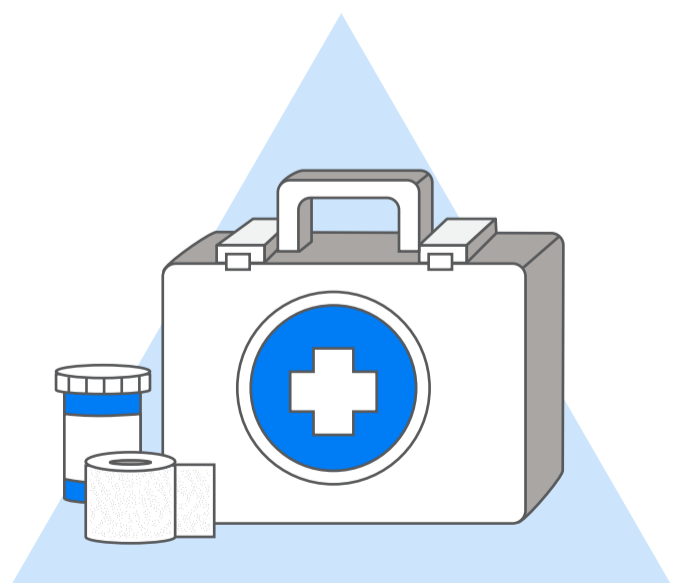
TRAVEL PRECAUTIONS

Precautions to take when traveling:

— To avoid the risk of being exposed to the virus, do not travel to locations which have reported high cases of COVID-19

— When traveling, always practice good hygiene and keep hand sanitizer close by

— Encourage team members who have returned from trips abroad, to watch for symptoms which may arise for the first fourteen days

— Request HR to keep a record of all employees who have traveled in and out of the country, especially from areas which have been heavily affected

— If symptoms do arise and they feel they have been exposed to the virus, request that they stay at home and contact their nearest healthcare provider

OUTBREAK PRECAUTIONS

What to do in the event of an outbreak:

— If a member of the team tests positive for the coronavirus, place them in an area where they are away from other members of the team, and contact the health authorities immediately

— Ask all members of your team to work from home until the entire office has been disinfected

— Make sure all members of your team are aware of your plan of action and the precautions that must be taken

Many have succumbed to panic during this time, but it's important to realize that this is ineffective. By following the tactics listed above, you can take the precautions needed and make your team aware of the best methods to protect themselves. It's time to take the lead, as safety champions, and do whatever it takes to ensure your team's wellbeing.