In early 2020, a novel strain of virus created the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted lives and businesses, including our clients’ local and global operations. EHS professionals have encountered new challenges during this crisis while they establish, manage, and monitor company policies and programs to ensure the health and safety of the workforce. These new obstacles include providing a healthy and safe workplace; ensuring compliance with new and evolving rules/policies to restart work; executing health screenings; and providing proper personal protection equipment (PPE).

With our expanded health and safety expertise, supported through the acquisition of three firms focused on health and safety, Trinity is assisting clients in essential industry sectors with business continuity planning, workplace evaluations, and best practices to address their employees’ well-being.

Our Health & Safety team closely monitors new rules, policies, and recommended practices established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), federal and state OSHA programs, and recognized associations including the American Biosafety Association (ABSA), American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), American Association of Safety Professionals (ASSP), World Health Organization (WHO), as well as state and local public health authorities.

We assist clients in the following areas to ensure safe and effective operations during a pandemic:

- Identification of site-specific hazards and risk assessment for pandemic control measures following the latest guidance from federal and state authorities (EPA, CDC, OSHA, etc.)
- Development of pandemic response plans that can be effectively implemented via employee communications/training for critical steps including:
  - Onsite screening and monitoring activities involving contractors, visitors, and customers
  - Personal protective measures as appropriate for specific jobs
- Recommendations for business continuity during pandemic including back-to-work considerations

**Pandemic Response Planning**

As offices and facilities begin to welcome staff members back to the workplace, employers are prioritizing the health and safety of their employees, customers, supply chains, and the communities they serve. In order to promote health and safety while maintaining operations and complying with OSHA requirements, employers should consider developing a Pandemic Response and/or Preparedness Plan to establish the requirements to address health concerns caused by pandemic diseases.

Trinity works with organizations to prepare response plans based on the latest guidelines and recommendations and which are clear, actionable, and dynamic.

Site plans clearly address these and related concerns, according to client needs:

- Hazard identification and risk assessment of workplace environment for disease control
- Verification of daily facility cleaning procedures and practices
- Enforcement of pandemic policies/programs and personal obligations for prevention of spreading disease through employee communication and training
- Screening and monitoring of onsite activities of contractors, visitors, and customers
- Personal protective measures such as face coverings and additional PPE for specific jobs
Risk Assessments
CDC and OSHA have advised employers to conduct a thorough risk assessment of the workplace to identify potential workplace hazards related to COVID-19. Employers should use appropriate combinations of controls to limit the spread of COVID-19, including engineering controls (e.g., install high-efficiency air filters, increase ventilation rates), workplace administrative policies (e.g., practice social distancing and good hand hygiene, disinfect surfaces, require sick employees to stay home, etc.), and PPE to protect workers from the identified hazards.

Our experts conduct site specific infection risk assessments, identify potential hazards, and advise engineering and administrative control measures. All assessments follow the latest guidance from the CDC, OSHA, and professional organizations such as ASHRAE and AIHA.

Pandemic hazard risk assessments include:

- Evaluation of indoor air quality and the need for enhanced building ventilation
- Evaluation of potential health hazards at workplace, such as mold and Legionnaires’ disease, for buildings that have been shut down
- Job safety analysis and process safety management for starting/re-starting work
- Development of focused cleaning plan and procedures
- Respiratory protection program development, review, and support
- Risk communication focused on preventing pandemic infectious disease among workers

Whether your facility has been fully/partially operational or preparing to reopen for returned workers, your EHS management team is responsible to ensure the workplace is healthy and safe for preventing infection. Trinity’s team of experts includes Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIHs) and Certified Safety Professionals (CSP) who can provide each site with recommendations to prevent the transmission of disease and assist EHS management to maintain a healthy and safe workplace for facility operations.

Why Choose Trinity
When challenges arise, companies succeed when they have a prepared plan with critical crisis practices that can be executed quickly. Our EHS management team has addressed the need for pandemic response plans, including back-to-work considerations that assist clients to prepare action items for this pandemic and beyond.

Trinity’s Health & Safety team has created successful Pandemic Response Plans for many clients. For more information, please call us at 800.229.6655 or contact us online.

ISO 9001:2015 certified at our corporate office in Dallas, Texas