



DESIGN AND FACILITY SOLUTIONS IN LIGHT OF COVID 19

BY: BLUESTONE PARTNERS' DESIGN TEAM

As a nation and world, we find ourselves in a very trying time. COVID19 has altered the way we live and work. There are so many unknowns in our world regarding our health and well-being as well as our economy. However, we at Bluestone, still stand by our vision and mission of **BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE WITH OUR PEOPLE AND OUR CLIENTS**. So, our goal is to keep moving forward and grow in these hard times. We can learn a lot about the spaces where we will live, work and gather.

Because the success of our people and our clients is our top priority, we want to provide commercial design solutions that could possibly reduce the spread of germs in our communal spaces. These solutions not only apply to the COVID19 virus, but all viruses. We are looking at every industry that we serve and evaluating the reduction of germ spread. We are happy to help fellow businesses implement any or all of these solutions. Below is a comprehensive list of solutions to incorporate into your space:



1. Touchless, motion-sensor hardware and fixtures

Hardware is one of the most touched surfaces in a space. If you can incorporate motion sensors, you automatically reduce the number of touches the hardware receives. This is not a new solution, as many spaces are already incorporating motion sensors into their designs. Not only are motion sensors beneficial for reducing the spread of germs, but they will also comply with many ADA requirements. Motion sensors can be found in a wide range of hardware & fixtures: door openers and closers, faucets, toilets, paper towel dispensers, soap dispensers, etc.



2. Install hand sanitizer stations

This is probably one of the most obvious and economical solutions. Hand Sanitizer stations are easy to install, can be motion sensed and go a long way in eliminating germs. The optimal location for hand sanitizer stations is at the entrance of your space. However, the type of sanitizer is also important. According to the CDC, effective sanitizer needs to be 60% alcohol.



3. Install drive thru or pick up windows for restaurants

At this point, we don't know how COVID19 will effect the restaurant industry entirely. However, during this pandemic and quarantine period, we do know that drive thru windows and curb side pick up as been the driving force in sales. So, it makes you wonder if this will be a trend that will stick? Drive thru windows are not exclusive to the food service industry, many pharmacies, labs, and dry cleaners also use drive thru windows. It is worth considering if drive thru and pick up windows will be more widely used after COVID19. Regardless, pick up windows reduce person-to-person contact and are effective in regard to germ spread.



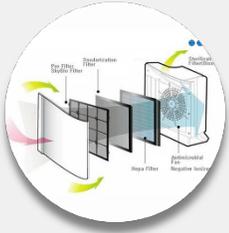
4. Space planning for work stations that are at least 6' apart

During the quarantine period, we've heard a lot about social distancing and staying 6' apart. So, it makes us go back to the drawing board and examine our work stations. Most people spend around 8 hours per day at their work. Because we spend so much time in our work spaces, it is worth considering the proximity of your co-workers. In corporate environments, there are many work space solutions to ensure that you have adequate space to work.



5. Hospital Grade Cleaning

Cleaning has been on the forefront of everyone's minds. Because viruses can live on surfaces for many hours, it is important to consider the method of cleaning. There are 5 EPA-registered chemicals that hospitals use for disinfectants that are effective in killing germs. Before everyone comes back to work after quarantine, a deep hospital grade cleaning could be necessary, not only for sanitation purposes, but also to give your workers peace of mind. These disinfectants should also be considered for routine cleaning.



6. HEPA air purification systems

Naturally, when we enter a space, we bring in dust and germs. Air purification systems have been widely accepted and installed in the medical industry to ensure good air quality. In the effort to eliminate germs, air purification systems should be considered. Just like most products, there is a wide range of systems: residential to medical grade. There are some important factors to consider, namely the filter. Filters meeting the HEPA standard ensure a certain level of efficiency. Not only are air purification systems effective for viruses, but also eliminate pet dander, dust pollen, mold spores or dust from the HVAC system. Air quality is another consideration in fighting germs.



7. Replace or install cleanable upholstery

As much as we all love a good textured fabric, it is undeniable that it is harder to disinfect. For high use areas such as common restaurant seating, it is always a good practice to use a vinyl or another cleanable upholstery. This way, you can spray and wipe down chairs between use.



8. Technology integrations/upgrades for remote work and access

Because so many people have been forced to work from home, it makes us look at our technology infrastructure and examine if it is effective and efficient for this type of use. Remote access could be beneficial far beyond the COVID19 pandemic. If someone suspects he or she is sick and has the ability to work from home, it reduces the possibility of bringing a new virus into the work space.



9. Door kick plates and Foot pull handles

This is a very economical, hardware option. Door kick plates and/or foot pull handles can be installed (door type permitting) and are a good alternative to using your hands to push or pull a handle.



10. POS systems with independent credit card machine

If you can incorporate a separate credit card machine to your POS system, you eliminate a shared surface between the employee and the customer (also known as your credit card). If the customer can insert the credit card themselves, the person-to-person contact is eliminated and in turn reducing the possibility to sharing germs.



11. Disinfecting wipe stations

Most grocery stores are already providing disinfecting wipes for customers to use on their shopping carts, but this could be incorporated into a wide range applications. The most common installation for wipes is a wall mounted bracket. Any area with a highly touched surface would benefit from disinfecting wipes. For example, the refrigerator handle in an office, the table at a restaurant, the ATM machine at the bank, and the list goes on. This solution is a very cost-effective solution for all industries.



12. Place merchandise behind cleanable, lockable glass or Plexiglass

In retail stores, merchandise is a highly touched surface. When possible, it could be beneficial to have a “sample” on display and have all the other merchandise behind glass or plexi glass. A solid glass surface is much easier to clean verses every individual piece of merchandise. This solution is very specific and not as easy to achieve, but it could eliminate the spread of germs and has a built-in security feature.



13. Sneeze guards and other barriers

Sneeze guards are a very common application in the food service industry, yet we need re-examine their height and effectiveness. As the name implies, a sneeze guard is a protective barrier between the food being served and the customer. However, this same concept could be applied in many other industries.



14. Wayfinding and signage

Wayfinding and signage is always important to ensure that a customer can navigate a space. But, as an added feature, it could keep patrons separated. Furthermore, in the health care industry, social distancing can be necessary to comply with HIPAA standards. Across the board, wayfinding and signage directs the customer where to go and while doing that, ensures that good space planning and social distancing.



15. Install cleanable wall panels or paint with wipeable sheen

The walls in a space make up a high percentage of the overall surfaces in a space. So, it is important to consider your wall application. For the purposes of disinfecting, a cleanable wall panel or a wipeable paint sheen would be the best options. There are a wide range of wall panels that can be very sterile (this is why hospitals use them), but if drywall is your preferred application, you can always use a paint sheen that is cleanable (satin, semi-gloss, eggshell or glossy). Avoid a flat sheen to your paint.



16. Use a rubber cove base

It might not be the look that you are going for, but in terms of sanitation, it is one of the best options, because it is easily cleaned. Not only that, but it is very durable.



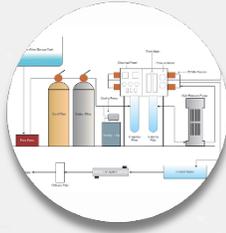
17. Sanitation mats

Sanitation mats are another good, economical option. Essentially, they bathe boots and shoes with either bleach or chlorine and have flexible rubber scrapers to remove debris from shoes. They are recommended for food processing facilities, greenhouses or labs. They are effective in preventing the spread of germs and bacteria.



18. Used & New PPE bins

Providing personal protective equipment such as face masks, gloves or shoe covers can be a good measure in preventing germ spread. In addition, you can provide used bins. Although it is industry specific, it could be implemented into more spaces.



19. UV Water Purifier

A UV water purifier uses ultraviolet light to disinfect water for home or industrial use by deactivating harmful bacteria and viruses without using chemicals.

We would love to help you move forward in creating a safe space.
Please give us a call and we'd be happy to help you.

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