

Protecting workers' physical and mental health during the pandemic

According to researchers, health s play a significantly larger role in a person's health than access to, and quality of, care. As the physical return to workplaces begins, employers can use data, technology and human-centered policies to empower their people to make lasting behaviour changes that improve health.

44.4%

of people now working from home say their mental health has declined since COVID-19.

Source: Qualtrics survey, March/April 2020

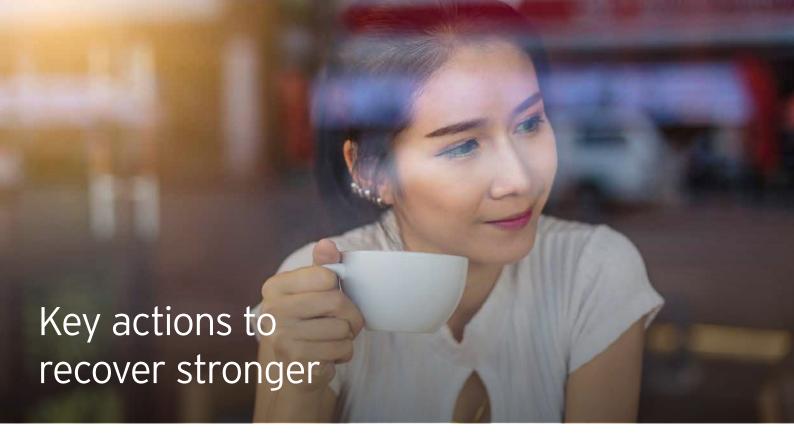
Failure to address employee mental health issues could prove costly

Promoting workers' health and safety will be critical for long-term value creation. Employers that fail to invest in employees' health and wellbeing will struggle to retain their most productive staffers.



Navigating a saw-toothed economic recovery

As the world's economy recovers, we envision a slow-paced, uneven recovery trajectory with varying rates of growth for sectors and geographies, and periods of acceleration offset by setbacks. This saw-toothed shaped return to growth demands organizations be more flexible, resilient and adapt fast. As global focus turns to addressing mental health and wellbeing during the crisis, organizations must plan now for the longer-term implications.



Adapt operations

- 1. Listen to employee concerns and make use of available data to respond quickly and appropriately customizing your approach where possible.
- 2. Address employee mental health and wellbeing issues including awareness and utilization of employee health benefits, isolation and change management.

66.9%

of people now working from home have reported increased stress since COVID-19 began.

Source: Qualtrics survey, March/April 2020

3. Design flexible and immersive change programs and related policies to support longerterm transitions and shifts in working practices including new work arrangements, remote working and travel.

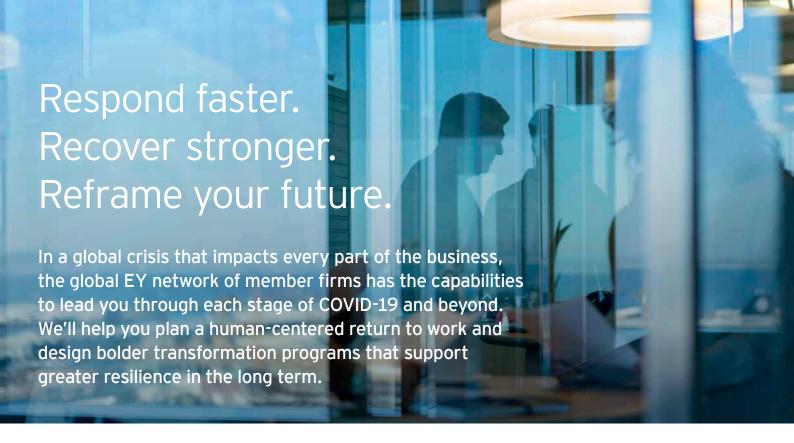
Increase resiliency

- 1. Adopt an integrated suite of technology solutions to monitor and enable workforce health and safety.
- 2. Reinforce listening channels to determine what issues workers face, including bias/discrimination.
- 3. Review your digital transformation strategy and adapt it to include digital tools that can be adopted now to support your workforce.

80%

of the global workforce has been affected by COVID-19 lockdowns.

Source: International Labor Organization, April 2020



Key actions

- Create a location-specific, crossfunctional plan for a physical return; taking a humans-at-center approach, enabled by technology.
- Adopt an integrated suite of technology solutions to monitor and enable workforce health and safety – single apps often require multiple inputs or present just a small part of the bigger picture.
- Build a data capture strategy to facilitate listening to employee concerns and enable real-time interventions.
- Protect mental health by fostering a culture of inclusion and belonging; mitigate unconscious bias and stigma associated with the pandemic.
- Design flexible, scalable and immersive change programs and policies to support longer-term shifts in working practices.

The global EY network of member firms has the capabilities to lead you through COVID-19 and beyond. Connect with EY People Advisory Services team to learn more.

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Notes

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