



Members Respond to the Coronavirus Challenge

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What's the biggest work/COVID-19 challenge you're facing this week?

In Hong Kong, we are now back to managing our normal day-to-day activity. Our main focus with respect to COVID is monitoring the current status and being prepared to respond in the event of any further outbreaks or flare-ups.

My role is regional, so most of my COVID related activity these days is coordinating with other markets in Asia, and assisting them with their return to the office planning, as well as sharing our experiences here in Asia with counterparts in North America.

What's the current situation in your city relative to opening non-essential businesses?

Hong Kong is essentially back to normal operations for most businesses, aside from entertainment venues. There are some restrictions on the size of gatherings, and on restaurants and other facilities where members of the public may interact in close settings. In a city as dense and crowded as Hong Kong, social distancing is not entirely practical. The HK pandemic strategy relies more on the wearing of face masks, robust contact tracing, and strict quarantine of travelers and suspected cases / contacts.

How do you think COVID-19 will bring about permanent changes in corporate real estate and workplace strategy?

Speaking for my company, we do not expect a major impact in our overall strategy in Hong Kong, but we will adapt somewhat to reflect the new normal. We anticipate that remote working will continue at a higher rate than pre-COVID, which may reduce the in-office headcount requirement, but that will be offset by reducing the density of some spaces. Overall, we do not anticipate any significant change in space requirements. The mix of meeting rooms may change, as more people make use of virtual or on-line collaboration tools. These changes may result in minor tweaks or adjustments, but not major changes to the workplace strategy.