Members Respond to the Coronavirus Challenge

Week of 8 June 2020

Lily Wang,
Senior Facility Manager, China, Pfizer,
Shanghai, China

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

Supple sufficient PPE for employees during massive shortage in early outbreak phase.

Keeping up-to-date on information and principles from local government (which change in very high frequency during and after the outbreak) in order to comply with local code for workplace access and facility management.

Set up effective but friendly process to ensure employee’s health and safety when temporary and formally return back to sites

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

Non-essential businesses have been gradually resumed back to normal since mid-March. Though colleagues have got used to WFH norm in the past one month, getting back to the office still helps to improve communication and collaboration, as well as to the teams’ morale and confidence of winning the fight against COVID-19.

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

We have colleagues and business leaders approach us proactively to suggest for more lean space design as they all think there is no need for such big space anymore after the work experience during the outbreak. In this way, we can foresee that workplace transformation will be speed up in quicker pace into a highly flexible design which will be more focused on enhancing collaboration both face-to-face and remotely. Moreover, the home base experience lead to more and more attention, even investment, to ergonomics and related areas.