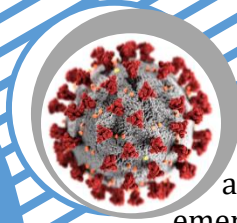


# THE IMPACT OF PANDEMIC: THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK & OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

G20 OSH Experts  
Network Campaign  
2020-2021



COVID-19 crisis has shown the importance of the preventive measures followed by individuals and workplaces in any country. The impact of the pandemic has brought about new ways of working, and new OSH risks have emerged consequently. There are a lot of other aspects that influence how the pandemic changes the world of work and OSH. A new era has begun!

## \**“Mitigating the Impacts of COVID-19 on OSH” Country Responses Survey Report-2021*

The G20 OSH Experts Network in collaboration with the ILO conducted a survey in 13 countries collected data on good initiatives around the world and examined how countries responded to the pandemic. Click [here](#) to get more information.

*The G20 OSH Network Campaign aims to raise awareness to mitigate the impact of this health crisis on the world of work, and occupational safety and health remains a key aspect to protect workers' health and ensure their safety in the changing universe.*

## Future of Work and Emerging Risks

According to Country Responses Survey\*, the risk of contagion is the number one regarding new and emerging risks, not surprisingly. This leads workplaces to integrate emergency preparedness into OSH management systems, including public health emergencies such as COVID-19. Do you think your workplace is ready for disease outbreaks and other emergencies, such as natural disasters, chemical incidents, radiological emergencies and emergencies involving conflicts? [Check it out!](#)

*“Investing in OSH systems will not only contribute towards responding to the current pandemic and recovering faster by avoiding further contagion, but will create resilience to face any future crises that might lie ahead.” - International Labour Organization (ILO) [ILO's World OSH Day Report!](#)*

## Teleworking

During the COVID-19 pandemic, teleworking is an important aspect of ensuring business continuity while ensuring the well-being of workers and their families. However, it poses risks regarding mainly mental health and ergonomics. [Here](#) are some practical tips to make home-based telework as healthy, safe and effective as possible.



*The G20 OSH Experts Network was established in 2015 with the mission of facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise among G20 countries, addressing global policy and technical challenges as well as finding solutions based on collaboration and providing access to the information and expertise of the network.*



*"Ensuring safety and health at work is indispensable in the management of the pandemic and the ability to resume work."*

## Global Challenges and Solutions



### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Effective Ways of Protection

Measures for the prevention of occupational diseases and infections should be identified and implemented with the hierarchy of controls and based on risk assessment. The hierarchy of controls gives priority to the protection of all workers through engineering and administrative control, instead of relying only on measures dependent on individual behaviour (e.g., PPE).

### A Solution for All Challenges

#### "National OSH Policy"

Strong national OSH policies and regulatory frameworks are essential for protecting workers' safety and health while preparing everyone to better respond to crises and increase the chance of business recovery or continuity. According to Country Responses Survey, some countries considered their existing legislative framework covers a range of risks and working arrangements, including the risks posed by COVID-19, while some other countries had a regulatory approach adopted regarding the prevention and control of COVID-19 at workplaces. Do not forget:

**"Safety doesn't happen by accident."**

#### Applying the hierarchy of controls:

- ✓ Hazard elimination and substitution
- ✓ Engineering and environmental controls
- ✓ Administrative and organizational controls
- ✓ PPE: Please be aware of the **risks** of prolonged use of PPE (e.g., skin damage, heat stress)



### Three Main Challenges Faced while Providing OSH Services due to COVID-19 (According to Country Responses Survey)



*Continuity and sustainability of OSH trainings for employees*



*Active monitoring of the implementation of workplace policies*



*Managing new and emerging risks due to COVID-19*

### How These Challenges Were Overcome?

- ✓ **Leadership:** formally recognized authority or body responsible for mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on OSH
- ✓ **Regulatory Framework:** temporary changes or amendments in regulations for the operational management of OSH services
- ✓ **Guidance:** launching specific websites including the informative documents prepared by the authorities; providing specific guides for high-risk industries, PPE, safe return to work; performing thematic webinars on managing new and emerging risks due to COVID-19
- ✓ **Cooperation:** strengthening the commitment of stakeholders, collaborating with stakeholders for developing and disseminating guidelines
- ✓ **Health Monitoring:** providing specific advice and guidance on the continuation of health monitoring
- ✓ **Extraordinary Procedures and Programs:** change in the process of import, buying and certification of PPE

