Things to consider before opening your factory in the COVID-19 environment...

Implement new technologies

Visualising social distancing

Existing CAD models or 3D laser scanning – to produce a virtual replica of the factory's spatial dimensions

Increasing the number of people returning to work off-site

Simulation software and artificial intelligence – these can also help rapidly plan staff shifts and determine the materials required

Sharing information and imposing social distancing

Infrared range-finding equipment – to measure distances
Voice control – to enable hands-free technology use
Augmented reality – to annotate tangible objects and capture processes

Controlling the movement of people and stream of materials

Remote process control and visualisation – to manage facilities, and carry out analysis and supervision

Tracking the movement of people and materials

Wearable devices – to monitor staff and alert them when they're within 2m of another person
Radio-frequency identification tags – to monitor cleaning
Thermal imaging – to detect heat radiation and potentially sense if team members have a fever

Perform a risk assessment

Using the hierarchy of controls

- Eliminate – Can you eliminate the need for the employee to be in the workplace?
- Substitute – Can the work be completed in a different way?
- Engineering controls – Can you create socially distancing workspaces?
- Admin controls – Can you do anything to strengthen social distancing reminders?
- PPE – Can you get the right stock, and guarantee that people use them?

Helpful hint:

Use Perspex screens in high-risk areas

Helpful hint:

Frequently assess safety measures for further improvements

Helpful hint:

Enforce a one-way or traffic light system for walkways and passages

Before implementing these technologies, remember to:

- Evaluate the required tolerance and accuracy of each system
- Guarantee your operational technology and information technology systems are fit for purpose

Helpful hint:

Temporarily close non-essential areas, like a canteen

Get support

Receive advice, funding and support from specialists at Made Smarter

Develop a digital roadmap and successfully implement a transformation strategy

Secure up to 50% match-funding for technology investment

Take advantage of our subsidised Leadership Development Programme

Helpful hint:

Adjust shift patterns to reduce numbers on the factory floor

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