NEW DAY
Urban Ministries℠
A Ministry of the Presbytery of San Diego

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) just released guidance to assist employers in making decisions regarding reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides continuing to follow the recommendations issued by state and local health departments when determining the most appropriate actions to take, you should pay particular attention to these five steps.

Five Steps

1. Consider Preliminary Questions Before Reopening

According to the CDC guidance, you should consider three questions when deciding whether to reopen:

1. Is our community no longer requiring significant mitigation?
2. Can we be able to limit non-essential employees to those from the local geographic area?
3. Do we have protective measures for employees at higher risk? (e.g. non-contact service, tasks that minimize contact)

***We should only consider reopening if we can answer "yes" to each of the three questions above.**

2. Take Recommended Safety Actions

Once we feel comfortable that our organization can satisfy the three preliminary questions, we should next adopt the CDC's recommended safety actions.
They include:

- Promoting healthy hygiene practices; Intensifying cleaning, disinfection (e.g., small static groups, no large events)
- Canceling non-essential travel, and encouraging alternative commuting and telework; Spacing out seating (more than six feet) and staggering gathering times; Restricting use of any shared items and spaces; and Training all staff in the above safety actions.

3. Implement Safeguards for Ongoing Monitoring of Employees

They include:

- Encouraging employees who are sick to stay home; Establishing routine, daily employee health checks; Monitoring absenteeism and having flexible time off policies.
- Having an action plan if a staff member gets COVID-19; creating and testing emergency communication channels for employees; and establishing communication with state and local health authorities.

If our workplace does see a positive case of COVID-19, we should follow the guidance provided in the 4th -Step Plan for handling confirmed COVID-19 cases when our ministry reopens.

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4. Prepare our Physical Workspace for Reopening

The final step before you reopen your doors involves preparing your physical workspace for the reentry of workers, customers, guests, and other visitors. The CDC has released guidance for cleaning and disinfecting public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes. We'll review this guidance when implementing cleaning procedures at our facilities after shelter-in-place orders are lifted.
For outdoor areas, you should maintain existing cleaning practices. As the CDC notes, viruses are killed more quickly by warmer temperatures and sunlight.

5. Maintain Vigilance

Our work is not completed once we open our doors and welcome back our workers and others. The CDC recommends that we should maintain routine cleaning and disinfection procedures after reopening to reduce the potential for exposure.
Finally, we should continue to monitor COVID-19 in our area, and if necessary, be prepared to close our facilities quickly if an outbreak occurs.

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