

COVID-19 RE-Opening Guide



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When it comes to environmental remediation experience, no one beats Scope Environmental

At Scope, we understand what it takes to remove COVID-19 and similar dangerous pathogens. Offices, hospitals, government facilities, stores, and businesses of all kinds - we've helped them to re-open on their terms. That's what removing 99.99% of pathogens will do.

When you're ready to re-open, we're here for you



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What Should You Look for When You Re-Open?

In all likelihood, when you shut down your business, you took steps to make sure it was safe. Cleaning up, locking the doors, turning off the utilities - those are steps that many companies took. Even if you did that, disinfection and deep-cleaning are important first steps.



When you're ready to re-open,

The longer your business was closed for, the greater the need for proper deep cleaning. Too often, water can intrude. This can lead to any number of problems: bacteria and dangerous organisms can thrive. The last thing you want is to open your doors to an unsafe environment.

Our professionals can come to your building and figure out exactly what needs to be done. We can take all the necessary precautions, providing deep cleaning, sanitization, and more. Plenty of buildings have small leaks that, when left alone for a long time, lead to microbiological contamination, bacterial, mold, and worse. This could be a health risk in and of itself. As ever, we can help.

Better Indoor Air Quality = Better Defense Against Sickness

The EPA, on the subject of indoor air quality and COVID-19, has said: "In general, increasing ventilation and filtration is usually appropriate; however, due to the complexity and diversity of buildings types, sizes, construction styles, HVAC system components, and other building features, a professional should interpret guidelines for their specific buildings and circumstances."

Airflow direction has a direct correlation with the transmission of pathogens. By improving your filters, sealing properly, providing professional and maintenance, and more, we can help to eliminate the pathogens in your building and keep them out. Through this procedure and others, your staff, colleagues, customers, clients, and more can feel confident and secure in doing business with you



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Don't Forget About Pests

When you closed your business to people, you may have opened it up to bed bugs, rodents, and worse. Even if you cleaned properly, there might be some food particles that were left out and could attract the wrong crowd. Part of having a healthy environment is eliminating pests, and we can certainly help with that. We can do our part through insulation, and other beneficial services.

It's understandable that, in the course of something like a pandemic, that you might think "eh, pests aren't that big a deal." But, they can quickly lead to gargantuan utility bills, roof damage, and much worse. Getting rid of them is one more way to prepare your business for opening up properly.

Disinfection and Deep Cleaning: A Step Above

You might think: "can't I just get my regular custodians to clean and get rid of the virus?" That's not enough. We utilize a four step, comprehensive remediation protocols. Following strict guidelines from the CDC as well as the EPA, this takes care of 99.99% of dangerous pathogens.

To be clear, that means that we can remove COVID-19. However, there are plenty of other viruses, similar to COVID-19, that may not be as dangerous, but can still be harmful to anyone who comes through your facility. We take care of them, too.

First, we seal off your location completely. Then, our trained professionals, decked out in the absolute highest quality PPE, construct a staging area. Once that's done, we get to work installing industrial purifier machines. Placing them strategically throughout your structure, they can intake any airborne spores.

So, while we wipe down every surface using EPA and CDC-approved biocides, we'll get almost all of the pathogens. The ones we don't will become airborne - where they'll be caught in the industrial air purifiers. They won't just sit in there, however. A three-layer filtration system destroys them.

This is a rough overview of how we work. We can make it specific to your facility. features, a professional should interpret guidelines for their specific buildings and circumstances."



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Continuing Care

Unfortunately, once we've cleaned your facility, pathogens could return. That's why it's more important than ever to maintain a work environment that's clean and safe.

We're always available to help out when you need us. Many of our clients turn to us for recurring work, so that we can ensure their facility is as safe and clean as can be.

24/7/365 Emergency Care

Should you need us, we'll be there. If someone at your facility is exposed (or you even think there's a chance they've been exposed) there's no time to waste. We can be there in a hurry to clean, disinfect, and hopefully stop the spread in its tracks.

Experienced, Large Staff

Even the best janitorial companies may not be able to get someone out to your company when you need them. Juggling many jobs and work orders, you could get the short end of the stick, so to speak. We have the resources and staff to help you when you need it.

Always in Compliance

OSHA, EPA, CDC, Department of Health Services - those are just a few of the organizations that our tactics, materials, methods, and more are in compliance with. We have all the proper licenses and certifications to handle your job right.



We Follow EPA Recommendations

When it comes to our disinfectant materials, we only use ones that have been approved by the EPA. Moreover, these disinfectants are sustainable and environmentally-friendly.

The truth is that some chemicals that have been approved by the EPA and CDC for dealing with COVID-19 and similar pathogens can pose risks to people and property if they aren't used properly. Here at Scope Environmental, we can make sure that you and yours are safe throughout the process.



Staying Safe and Healthy

When our professionals enter your area, they have the absolute best PPE. That means gloves, hazmat suits, face masks that have respirators, and much more.

That same level of care goes into the construction of our staging area. It has clearly delineated and protected areas for where biohazardous materials can be contained and eliminated. That way, they pose no threat to your HVAC system, facility, or anything else.

By operating in the safest way possible, in accordance with governmental agency guidelines, we can return your facility to the condition you want.



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Custom Techniques and Approaches for Your Facility

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses saw the benefits of an environment that was safe and clean.

You no doubt do everything you can to make sure that your employees can and do wash their hands, which goes a long way towards keeping themselves and those they come into contact with safe.

Dangerous pathogens such as COVID-19 and others, unfortunately, can live on surfaces for a long period of time. A couple hours, a couple days, a couple weeks - you may not know. You certainly can't be too careful. So, cleaning is imperative.

However, that can be difficult for your business. Think about it: how many employees you have, in close proximity, all with access to shared desks, chairs, spaces, and so forth.

That's why it's so important to have pros like us here at Scope Environmental come through to give your facility the deep cleaning and disinfection it needs. Ensuring the safest working practices possible is always one of our most important tasks.

Risk Assessment

Even before we arrive at your facility, our professionals will analyze exactly what needs to be done with your site. That way, we can bring the right amount of equipment, technicians, disinfection materials, and more.

There's no work space exactly like yours. So, you shouldn't be given what worked at another facility simply because it worked there. That's why we make sure all our assessments are situation and location-specific.

With the right amount of PPE, technicians, equipment, and more, we can get the job done right for you.

PPE and More

When gloved hands come into contact with something that's contaminated (or even potentially contaminated) the gloves have to be replaced as quickly as possible. That's just one of the reasons that we bring as many materials as the job could potentially need.

The last thing we would ever do (or would ever recommend that someone else do) is to reuse utility gloves. That's true if they come into contact with contaminated materials, yes, but also should they become even slightly punctured or cracked in any way. Should you see the slightest sign of discoloration or the start of deterioration, throw them away. We do.

In the course of clearing your facility of pathogens, our technicians could be exposed to infectious materials through droplets, splashes, or even a spray. That's why we have the kind of PPE masks with respirators. This can protect our team come what may.

From the head, to the body, all the way down to our feet - we keep our team safe. Our PPE is specifically designed to make sure that the entire bodies of our technicians are protected. That way, we can provide you with the best service.

Setting up a staging area when we arrive is a major part of this. That way, none of your people come into contact with any potentially infectious materials. By that same token, those potentially infectious materials never make it to the outside world, either. "Containment" is a word and a responsibility we take very seriously.



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Before Disinfection

Your facility has its own unique size, shape, challenges, and opportunities. We take that into account before the disinfection starts. Those are just a few of the factors that go into us determining how many technicians we send to your facility.

One of the first things we do is to go over the chairs, floors, walls, tables, and more. Scope Environmental Remediation professionals have the training, technology, and more to properly clean and disinfect essentially any portion of your facility.

Eliminating Any Potential Threat

Is there someone on your team that may be infectious? Alternatively, is there someone on your staff who may have come into contact with infectious materials? We can help.

Should any of our technicians come into contact with something that has even the slightest chance of being potentially infected, we take quick action. Their personal items, their documents, any materials, even their work phone - we can neutralize it and then dispose of it properly. If possible, we can disinfect and clean it.

Deep Cleaning - Done By Hand When Right for the Job

In some cases, the best methods for deep cleaning and disinfection are done by hand. Where possible, our technicians use environmentally-safe microfiber towels and more to deeply clean and disinfect sensitive items and areas. That way, you don't have to throw away expensive property which may have come into contact with the infected.



Otherwise, they could contaminate the person wearing them, anyone around them, and even the environment itself. Even after removing the gloves, you're going to want to wash your hands. Should there be even the slightest breach in PPE, report it to any supervisor, manager, and other authority figure. Getting all of those materials and having them in the right, continuing quantity is not easy. Beyond that, you're taking employees out of the course of doing the jobs they were hired for to do all of this cleaning. It's much easier on your bottom line as well as your peace of mind to hire the professionals.

The Difficulties of Doing It Yourself

We understand the impulse to want to clean and disinfect your own facility. If your car engine were to break down, you might want to fix it yourself. But, understanding that you need your car in good operating condition, you would want to go to a professional mechanic.

However, should you want to deeply clean and disinfect your own facility, there are some things you will need. Make sure that you have as many face masks as possible. Yes, they have to be N-95 masks.

Beyond that, you're also going to want gloves, gowns, goggles, top-notch eye protection, and more. Additionally, each of those items are going to have to be removed in a very careful fashion.



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Disinfecting Your HVAC and Improving Indoor Air Conditions

HVAC keeps you cool when it's hot and warm when it's cold. But, it could spread mold, mildew, dust, and other dangers. . Removing harmful contaminants from HVAC systems is part of our job. Healthy HVAC = Healthier Employees and Help with Energy Efficiency.

Pathogens like COVID-19 and HVAC Systems

Many of us think of our HVAC systems as safe, that all they do is provide heat and air conditioning. However, they can potentially spread harmful contaminants and pathogens (such as COVID-19).

You can get COVID-19 (and similar infections) by what's called "droplet infection," where you breathe in the droplets. These droplets can be generated by someone sneezing or coughing around you and then you inhale them.

However, should someone sneeze or cough in the vicinity of a vent, an HVAC unit could quickly spread it around the entire facility. If this seems unlikely, remember that the current research shows COVID-19 can persist in the air for up to three hours. It's more likely than you might think, unfortunately.

Here at Scope Environmental Remediation, we have experience in treating the drain pans, coils, and other parts of the HVAC system so as to keep this from happening. It can be one more way that our deep cleaning and disinfection keeps your facility (and you) safe.



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COVID-19 Can Last Longer on Surfaces than You Might Think

Think about all of the different places in an office or other commercial setting that multiple people might touch. Doorknobs, chairs, desks, computers, and more - there are so many of them. Even for a business that utilizes proper social distancing, that's a lot.

As of this writing, research has shown that COVID-19 can last for two to three hours on stainless steel and plastic surfaces. Similar SARS viruses can last on plastic, glass, and metal for up to nine days.



Scope Environmental's deep cleaning and disinfection are built around protecting your facility from these exact scenarios.

Over the years, Scope Environmental has helped all different kinds of facilities to have the kinds of air quality that can assist with health, comfort, and more. Business establishments, hospitals, stores, industrial facilities, hotels, and others - we are uniquely qualified to help your business re-open and succeed.

Maintenance, sealing, filters, and more - we can put together a package that will mitigate and stop the spread of dangerous pathogens.



Some Things for Employers to Keep in Mind

- Cleaning and disinfection: critically important.
- Follow local, state, and federal health department guidelines.
- Make sure your employees know to keep the office clean.
- They should stay home if they feel unwell or come into contact with the infected.
- If the latter occurs, they should notify their supervisor & local health department.
- Develop worker protection policies and training.
- Employees should know all about PPE.
- What PPE they should, when to, how to take it off, and dispose of properly.



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For a Safer Workplace

We all want a workplace that's safe. Below are some methods we've come across that can help companies. Not every company will be able to use all of these, but there's something here which can help any company.



When laying out your office or workplace, establish one that can lessen the risk of COVID-19. That means restricting physical interactions where possible, limiting the use of common areas, and maintaining social distancing in workplace configurations.

Having PPE and guidelines for its use on hand can do wonders for you and your employees.

Think of which jobs can be conducted or even managed remotely, possibly working from home. A flexible work routine, balancing on-site with off-site work, can make social distancing that much easier and more efficient in the office.

Meeting virtually with clients, investors, and other third-party personnel can help. Should you require in-person meetings, make sure any third-party personnel have been monitored and screened as much as possible. Social distancing is important in these interactions



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Keeping Your Employees Safe

Once stay-at-home orders are lifted, the world won't return to how it was immediately. Many of your employees could face difficulties with childcare, commuting, transportation, and other concerns. Simply opening the doors and saying "we're open again" isn't enough. You want to build trust with your employees. By doing so, you'll be able to build a stronger business.

Make sure your workers are properly distanced from each other to lessen the potential risk of infection. If your business is something like a store, warehouse, factory, or other kind of business where social distancing may not be possible in every single interaction, do what you can to keep those interactions short. Moreover, try to limit how many can occur in the course of a day. Ensure that you have a capacity for screening as well as removal. That way, you can build the trust with your employees that comes from them knowing you can protect them (as well as your customers) from those who are contagious and infected.

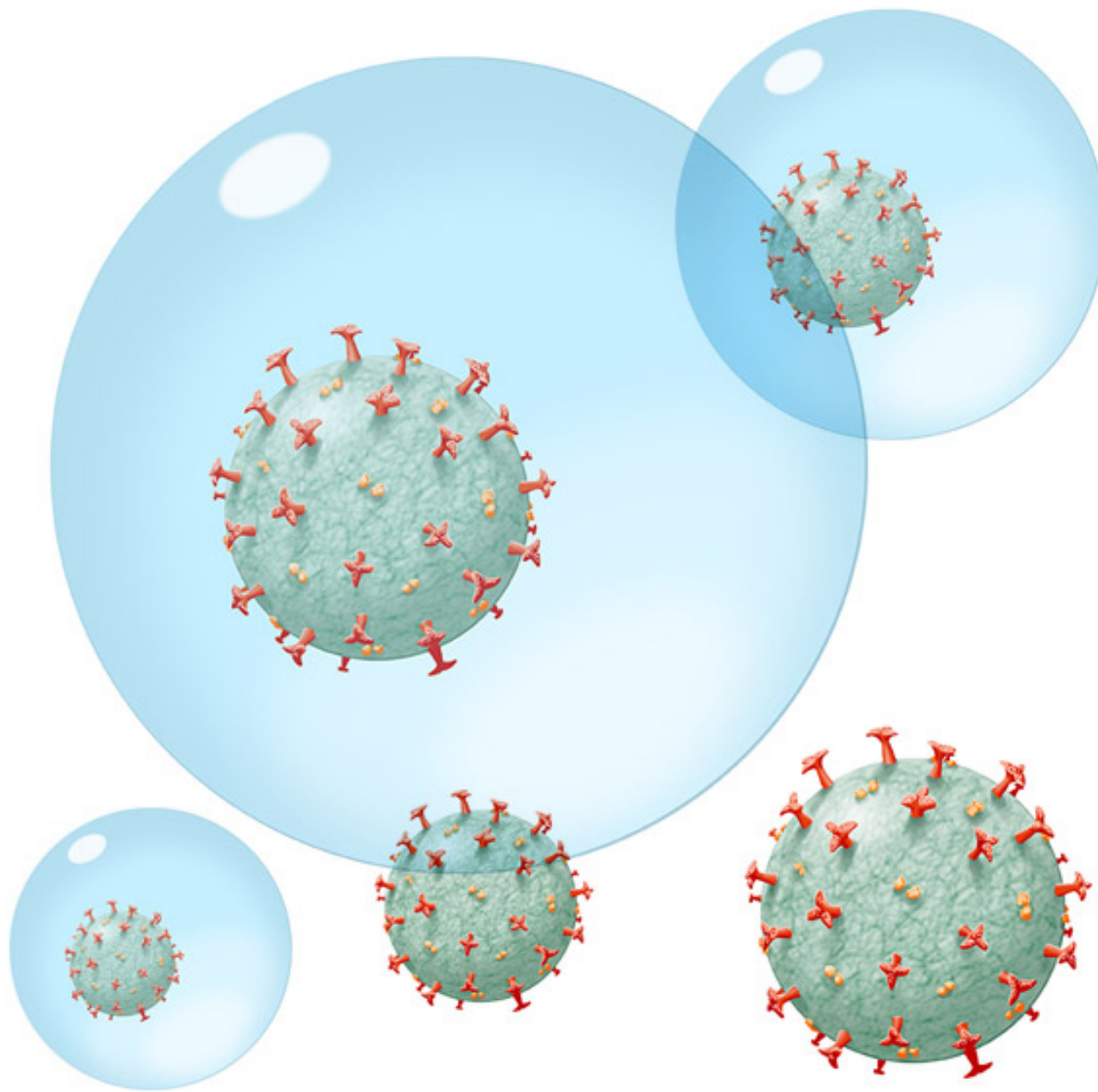
Every business will face different risks. Through policies designed to strengthen mitigation, social distancing, deep cleaning, disinfection, and other protocols, it's possible to dramatically lessen the risk of transmission and infection in any work environment.



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Primary Method

The most common method of transmission is through “respiratory droplets.” Symptomatic people sneeze, they cough, and someone breathes these in. Typically, this person is within six feet of the infected person. Shaking hands with a symptomatic person has also been shown to cause this.

Secondary Method

“Aerosols” isn’t just a word for “spray cans.” That’s also the name for small particles that can stay up in the air for hours on end. These can also be breathed in, as well.

Tertiary Method

In this, infected particles end up on some surface, such as a doorknob or handle. Then, someone touches them and then touches their own face.

Keeping Your Workplace COVID-19 Free

While nothing is 100% foolproof, there are steps you can take to control the possibilities of transmission at your facility. As ever, you want to refer to local, state, and even federal guidance for the most up to date information. Some things to keep in mind:

Temperature checks at points of entry.

Making no-touch temperature readings mandatory while also having them watched over by workplace coordinators.

When laying out your new office plans to promote social distancing, remember that you can put tape on the floor to better help your employees as well as third-party personnel.

Make facial coverings mandatory. Provide them to your employees and third-party personnel, too.

For non-essential areas, restrict access only to those who truly might need them.

Clean and sanitize common areas and commonly touched items, such as sinks, door handles, and others. Do the same for individual workstations, too.

Clean high traffic areas once the workday has ended and common touch points before the workday begins. Make certain your employees understand that they’re to wash their hands for at least twenty seconds often throughout the day. Ensure they have the provisions to do so as well.



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Safe Work Environment Checklist

- ✓ Employees have staggered work times to help maintain social distancing
- ✓ Workplace laid out to enhance social distancing
- ✓ Health reminders posted throughout the facility
- ✓ Health reminders that let employees and third-party personnel understand policies on social distancing, staying home when sick, hand washing, limits on how many people can be in a common area at one time, and shaking hands.
- ✓ Clearly defined disinfection and office cleaning protocols
- ✓ Supplies for Office: disinfectant wipes, gloves, bottled water, hand sanitizer, face coverings
- ✓ Quarantine space at work for anyone who shows symptoms
- ✓ Location for disinfection, cleaning, and sterilization of deliveries
- ✓ Internal employee communication protocol and directory for anyone (including HR) to access in regards to COVID-19
- ✓ Shield guards separating employees from each other
- ✓ Shield guards for reception workers
- ✓ No-touch access to frequently accessed areas
- ✓ Project management tools that streamline workflow
- ✓ Monitoring access of common areas for best social distancing practices.
- ✓ Separate waste bins for PPE, cleaning materials, and regular work waste, so as to eliminate potential of cross-contamination.



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✓ **Additional Considerations**

These are some methods that businesses we've worked with have implemented. They might not be the right fit for your business. However, you may find something here that works for you.

✓ **Virtual Healthcare**

Many have received medical care through video conferencing. Some health insurance companies offer these services. Through this, medical professionals can diagnose symptoms and make prescriptions online.

✓ **List of Employees Who Must Work On-Site**

Make a list of who has to work at home and who must work in the office. Remote work is, even when everything re-opens, the safest.

✓ **Plan for Second Wave**

Unfortunately, there is a possibility of a second wave of COVID-19 during the fall and winter months. Have a plan in place for remote working and more should this occur.

✓ **Training Online**

An online system for training new hires can help significantly with social distancing, all while helping your business to expand, too.

✓ **Work From Home Employees with Dependents**

Those are the employees who could be given priority when choosing who to have work from home. While your business and others may be re-opening, many daycare providers and schools are not.

✓ **Keep Communication Channels Open**

When you do re-open, be sure to let your employees know all of your back to work requirements. Email, video-conferencing, and more can be utilized for this.



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Scope Environmental is Here to Help

These are challenging times for all of us. Very few have been alive for something like this. We take our responsibility as a trusted partner to many businesses very seriously. We'll continue to provide support throughout this process. We've always met and exceeded our clients' expectations, and we'll continue to do so in the future.

At Scope Environmental, what's most important to us is always the health and safety of our crews and customers. That's always paramount as we restore your buildings and ultimately your businesses.

As ever, our number one priority is total client satisfaction. Flattening the curve and bending it down is just the beginning. We'll be here to help every step of the way.



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