

Chat Log from March 24, 2020 COVID-19 Impacts at the Cement Plant Webinar

Lightly edited for content, to avoid duplication, and to ensure anonymity

What government agencies are companies using for definitive regulations and guidance? Getting information from local, county, city, or state agencies. Getting conflicting information. We are using the state.

We've included contractors in our updates.

We use consistent CDC prevention approaches and daily communication. Microsoft teams used within our organization. Reaching out to all locations via phone and web meetings. Daily meeting at all levels of the organization to be consistent. No visitors unless approved by a VP, and valid business reason.

Re: communications people are blasting out the myriad things they receive. We're providing guidance to the be inclusive, but be selective (send to the smallest number of the right people); stay in your lane (i.e., let legal provide legal updates, HR on benefits); and reduce redundancy (ask yourself if it's already been communicated before hitting 'send'). We're working to thwart information overload.

Reinforce the use of existing processes for attendance (supervisors, HR, etc.) People seem to want to create new processes. We find ourselves steering people back to the current processes for illness, stay at home, etc. Of course, with added guidance.

We set up a hotline and website as well for employees to ask questions and seek answers to

Try to keep with a steady, regular schedule for communications.

Collection of personal emails to provide information of Regulations and Company information direct to employees.

UV-c Someone thought it could be used to disinfect paperwork, but no one seems to know how long the paper has to be exposed to the UV-c. I've read from a few seconds to 60 minutes. So, in addition to the exposure concern, we don't know how long to expose the surface to UV-c for it to be effective. Personally [I] don't recommend it.

We are screening our employees and all incoming traffic for temperature and asking all the quarantine questions.

We've ordered thermometers for departmental use to check all employees before starting shift.

Health check list for all contractors and approved visitors. We are basically closed to all non-essential visitors and contractors. We also have gate security control.

Complete segregation of contractors attempted at our locations. Very difficult but can be done. They are not to share employee facilities.

We compare against contractor origin location and employee travel against the John Hopkins COVID-19 map.

We eliminate cross shift interaction. One shift enters one part of the plant while another exits.
Segregated parking, etc.

Shift turn over via conference call from separate offices.

We campaign shifts. Working 50% of the crews for a period such as a week. Then bring in other 50% for the following week to reduce contact in half.

We have reassigned employees to different break rooms and in some cases physically redistributed lockers to space employees out.

Another practice we heard from folks on our call last week was having one person designated for clock in / clock out.

How is everyone ensuring the 6ft. minimum between all workforce?

We have started screening contractors with a series of questions. Also the same for employees after they do any travel.

How readily available are the sanitizing supplies?

With the exception of respirators (N95) we have found that most things are available. Even though it often requires going outside normal supply channels.

Quebec and Ontario, Canada – government shutdowns mandated. Will affect our plants there.

RHI Magnesita obtained the waiver to continue with our York, PA operations.

What supply chain interruptions is John hearing about? We've not been advised of anything.

Any updates on Force Majeure for orders placed awaiting delivery?

METSO has sent out a notice of possible force majeure.

Do you understand international air cargo is shut down between those countries with travel bans?

The PA Mining restriction was revised. All mining is now allowed.

I heard that Ravenna had to shut down due to NY State lockdown.

I don't want to spread misinformation... but didn't the CDC state that the virus can only survive for up to 24 hours outside of the body... on cardboard or paper?

New CDC press release yesterday indicated virus can remain viable up to 17 days after human contact. Based on vacated cruise ships...

Don't know the source, but media reports that the virus can last up to 72 hrs. on plastic and metal surfaces.

When checking temperatures, what temperature is flagged as infected? How then to confirm non-infected after recovery?

Doesn't need to be fever 100.4 but only above normal, say 99.5.

Is anyone using a medical professional to take these screening indicators e.g. temperatures?

Have a quarantine of paperwork before it is processed.

[] could give a false sense of security. Remember that paper has two sides and both sides would have to be "treated". Just doesn't seem that viable. If someone can produce a valid, scientific reference that proves otherwise for this scenario, could be reconsidered.

Upgrading to respirators requires fit tests and clean-shave. Anyone upgrading their program

Our experience is cartridges for half face respirators are out until early summer.

Yesterday, the Governor of Minnesota released an Executive Order mandating that all Minnesota businesses refrain from the use of PPE which may be needed to treat COVID-19 "... other than for use in delivering critical health care services or essential services requiring such equipment..." The Executive Order continues by requiring all Minnesota business to submit a PPE inventory to the State no later than March 25th and to donate, or prepare to donate or sell, all needed PPE for use by critical health care workers. Has the cement industry been defined as an "essential service" for the purposes of this Executive Order?

We have had shift segregation in place for a week. We have janitorial personnel assigned on each shift and do a complete cleaning between shifts. Wipe down of buttons, switches, phones, radios, etc. is continuous and ongoing.

We have hired a temp janitor to clean lunch rooms, locker rooms, control room & offices [on an] every 2 to 3 hours cycle all day long. This is apart from regular daily full cleaning every evening for all offices, restrooms, etc.

We requested our janitors service to increase to hospital level the chemicals they use to clean.

We are looking at this company for office based ozone and disinfecting [globalplasmasolutions.com] – became known to me it [by] my wife is a nursing administrator for a large senior living establishment – product has been tested to destroy similar air based pathogens – no claim to COVID-19 given obvious reasons – roof based units but more interesting to us is single office ventilation units are available.

Has there been any direct communication with MSHA? Are other sites actively in inspection?

Yes we had 5 inspectors arrive at our plant in TX yesterday.

Was likely the same inspectors that just left our TX facility.

We requested last week that the inspector not come on site during this time and they have arrived again today.

Several plants had had MSHA inspectors. Best practice enforce CDC rules. Single passenger, ask where they have been, have they been exposed, etc. Inspection teams one inspector, one plant person, observe social distancing at all times (i.e. no two people in a mobile equipment cab/elevator/etc.)

