

## Key Outcomes: COVID-19 Plant Survey

Based on results from a recent PCA-member survey, it is clear cement operators are taking many actions to keep employees healthy and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Masks**

The most common policy is requiring all persons on property to wear a mask, including employees, visitors, and contractors, and to wear them at least part of the day (for example, when social distancing is not possible). All survey respondents provide employees with masks and do not require them to procure their own.

Mask specification requirements and methods of maintaining masks varied. More than half of respondents have explicit mask specifications (e.g. N95) for some workers and jobs, but when filtration is not required or proper social distancing can be maintained, then any type of face covering is acceptable. Because PCA member companies use various types of masks, their methods of maintenance also vary. The two most common include using disposable masks and washing reusable ones with soap and water; sanitizing masks was the least common practice. In instances where masks are cleaned or sanitized to be reused, employees are responsible for this at the vast majority of sites; those who do not ask employees to clean their own masks tend to use disposal masks, which makes cleaning unnecessary.

### **Screening**

More than 95% of respondents are doing some form of employee or contractor/visitor screening and the most common technique is use of a questionnaire, followed by temperature screening using a forehead scanner; only 12% report using a thermal scanner. There is wide variation of who completes screening at cement plants. Over 30% of sites ask employees to take their temperature before coming to work, 32% have a company employee conduct screening, and 29% employ a third party. Finally, 67% of respondents define an 'action temperature' as greater than 100.4°F and 24% between 100 - 100.4°F; sites are split evenly between allowing for a retest after a short waiting period and not having an additional test.

### **Worksite Changes**

A driver and front seat passenger are unable to socially distance the recommended six feet when riding in a vehicle together, therefore, companies have adopted policies to address this. More than 70% of respondents either do not allow employees to ride in the same vehicle (40%) or require a mask be worn if driving together is necessary (31%).

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Changing production crew work schedules is one of the most common practices employed by PCA member companies to address COVID-19. Over 85% have altered production crew schedules by, most commonly, staggering arrival and departure times (46%) or segregating crews to avoid cross-contamination should a positive case emerge. To better protect vulnerable populations, companies are most commonly having these employees strictly do work that maintains social distancing and the second most common method is having vulnerable employees work from home. However, many also noted accommodations are based on employee request and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, so companies typically employ a variety of methods to protect their employees.

### **Office Changes**

While PCA member companies are split fairly evenly between designating personnel flow (like using one-way hallways) and not, over 75% are limiting capacity in the restrooms and almost 90% are keeping break rooms open with additional restrictions. The most common restrictions, in order, are limiting occupancy (89%), staggering schedules (69%), and implementing policies to reduce touchpoints (46%). Food preparation areas are also commonly staying open with similar restrictions as in breakrooms, with the addition of a more rigorous cleaning schedule as a common practice.

### **Return to Office**

PCA member companies are using a variety of methods to prepare employees returning to the office and many are employing more than one strategy. The most common is providing written guidance via email or mail (91%), followed by posting on a company website (49%), using online training (29%), testing employee comprehension of new policies (26%), and using training videos (20%).