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Empowering the return to routine with smart solutions

Technologies and best practices to safely return to work

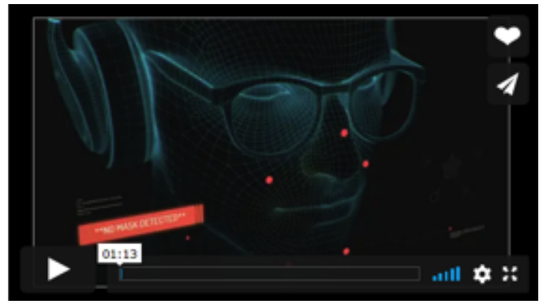
Johnson Controls

Start at the beginning: proactive safety measures start at the entrance

Because of what we've learned during the pandemic, wearing face coverings may be a practice that sticks around for a while as the first line of defense to support a healthy workplace. In busy environments, like multi-occupant buildings where hundreds of employees and visitors enter a lobby at the same time, it can be difficult to monitor who does or does not have a face covering.

Automating this essential task is more efficient and effective through video management systems like exacqVision with its powerful face mask detection feature that automatically monitors and searches for "No Mask Detected" events. This AI-empowered solution enhances situational awareness and allows security personnel to quickly mitigate any potential breaches by receiving automatic alerts.

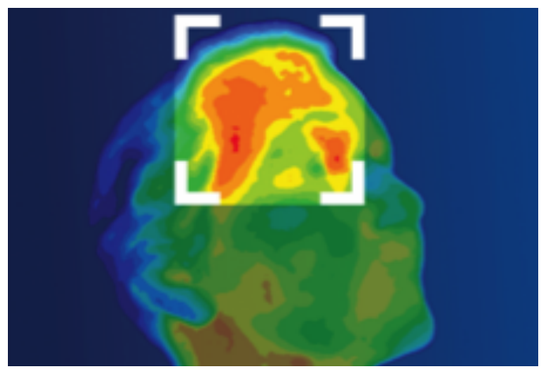
AI Deep Learning Analytics



exacqVision supports thousands of cameras, making face mask detection easy to implement with cameras you may already have in place.

But are face coverings enough?

We've learned that one of the biggest challenges with containing contagious illnesses is that many people simply don't know they are sick until it's too late. Asymptomatic employees could come into work and unintentionally spread the disease to dozens - or hundreds - of colleagues. While requiring face coverings is a good first line of defense, using thermal cameras to scan for elevated skin temperatures as staff and visitors enter the building is an unobtrusive way to strengthen the barriers of protection. Non-invasive, contactless devices like the Illustra Pro Thermal EST camera can measure skin temperatures with a ±0.2°C / 0.4°F accuracy tolerance at an effective distance of 1 to 2 meters (3.3 to 6.6 feet).



The Illustra Pro Thermal camera enhances situational awareness in a wide variety of installations.

Illustra Pro Thermal EST cameras were designed in accordance with the FDA's "Enforcement Policy for Telethermographic Systems During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency". Visit our website for more information.

Getting back to work

This one idea transcends our geographical boundaries as a universal goal, at a time where common ground has been in short supply. It's impossible to write about how to safely return to workplaces today without addressing the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had. Office spaces have been remodeled, business policies have been overhauled, security ecosystems have been revamped...all to accommodate new restrictions and procedures designed to help stop the spread of infection and avoid another economic shutdown.

According to a recent survey, 100 executives across the country expect 88% of their workforce to be back on-site by December[1], and leading health and government organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have very explicit recommendations for getting safely back to work[2]. Employees are counting on their management teams to take the necessary precautions and combining new office protocols with smart technology will be the formula for long-term, sustainable success.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published **guidance** on mitigating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. You can download their Guidance to Returning to Work **here**

This article touches on just a few of the essential strategies and smart tools that can help empower a secure, healthy workplace:

- Monitoring for face coverings to help minimize the spread of contagious illnesses
- Scanning for elevated skin temperatures to ensure no one entering has a fever – one of the most common symptoms of illness
- Reducing physical contact (friction) even while increasing the strength and efficiency of security
- Centralizing security management applications to avoid security and safety gaps

Making security stronger and more convenient

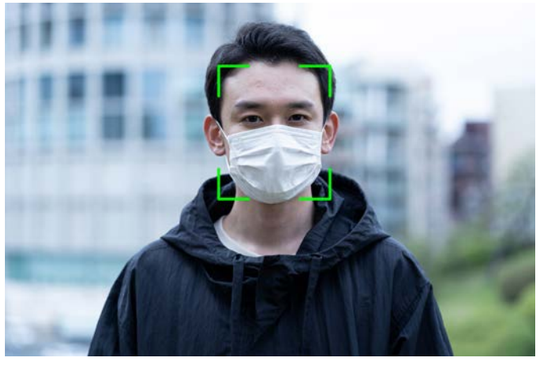
Enforcing face coverings, measuring skin temperature, monitoring guidelines from health organizations... businesses everywhere are adopting many new strategies to ensure a healthy workplace. With the collective mindset focused on reducing risk by minimizing contact, there is fresh urgency to adopt digital business models in security—and only cloud platforms can provide the agility, scalability, and innovation required for this transition.

Cloud Managed Security Solutions

Cloud-based mobile platforms such as Cloudvue ioSmart Mobile Access provide a simple and cost-effective way to deliver a completely frictionless access control experience. Installed as a traditional access control reader or as a local controller providing mobile access, Tyco Kantech ioSmart readers provide keyless (and contactless) entry with the benefit of remote cloud management. This convenient and more hygienic solution also gives administrators the ability to unlock doors, view surveillance activity, assign or revoke credentials – all from the same mobile app.

Biometric Security and User Identification

Implementing facial recognition is another powerful way to strengthen security while offering a no contact, frictionless experience.
Kantech EntraPass security management software integrates with facial recognition technology that satisfies even the most stringent security protocols including an extremely low False Acceptance Rate (FAR) of .0001% and protection of personally identifiable information (PII) through anti-spoofing protocols.



Empower a smart and sustainable return

It remains to be seen if the research is correct and most of the workforce is back on-site by December. One thing that is sure to be true is that workplaces will look and feel very different, especially with most companies creating pandemic preparedness plans[3] that include everything from restricted travel and split workforce operations to new technologies that scan for elevated skin temperatures and monitor face mask compliance. Connecting these new technologies with powerful security solutions like facial recognition and mobile access control and managing them all as single ecosystem in the cloud is where smart meets safe and secure for a sustainable return to routine.

By moving costly infrastructure to the cloud, organizations can streamline access control and video solutions, share info more quickly and reduce the total cost of security

1. *How US companies plan to return to the workplace | McKinsey),*
2. *Hierarchy of Controls," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cdc.gov; COVID-19 Guidance: Businesses and Employers | CDC).*
3. *What Workplaces Could Look Like, When Workers Return (forbes.com)*

About Johnson Controls

Johnson Controls is a global diversified technology and multi-industrial leader serving a wide range of customers in more than 150 countries. Our 120,000 employees create intelligent buildings, efficient energy solutions, integrated infrastructure and next generation transport systems that work seamlessly together to deliver on the promise of smart cities and communities. Our commitment to sustainability dates back to our roots in 1885, with the invention of the first electric room thermostat.

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