

Our COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly every person, community, business, and economy in the world since early 2020.

Designated as an essential business, we executed a comprehensive response across all regions in which we operate, implementing strict safety protocols in our factories, labs, and logistics centers so we could continue operating throughout the pandemic. We prioritized the protection and trust of our employees, customers, suppliers, partners, and community as we drove key initiatives to strengthen Applied for the long term.

Employee Health and Safety

- Required remote work where possible
- Provided enhanced screenings, testing, social distancing, and personal protective equipment (PPE) for on-site employees
- Offered virtual physician and wellness appointments through company health centers

Remote Productivity

- Provided reimbursement of expenses and ergonomic support for working from home
- Offered hardware and connectivity resources
- Upgraded virtual productivity tools

Community Support

- Provided PPE and blood analysis systems to medical facilities
- Sent emergency support to food banks and crisis-response nonprofits
- Donated cases of hand sanitizer for isolated seniors and people who are unhoused

Employee Volunteering

- Printed 3D face shields and touchless door handles for hospitals
- Created open-source designs for medical gear
- Sewed masks for nonprofit volunteers

COVID Impacts on Sustainability

Many of the results reflected in this year's Sustainability Report are influenced by the events of 2020. The pandemic response shifted some of our workforce to work at home, and corporate travel was curtailed, at the same time we experienced increased customer demand impacting our on-site manufacturing operations and associated carbon footprint. Other initiatives, such as environmental health and safety self-assessments and on-site supplier audits, were more challenging to execute amid pandemic shutdowns. We have noted these potential impacts in the data where appropriate.

As the world begins to recover from the pandemic, Applied is committed to leveraging essential 2020 learnings and innovative solutions to accelerate progress against our goals in 2021 and beyond.

Applied has a multi-phase plan to return to working on-site, which takes into consideration factors such as Applied's business needs, local government regulations, community case trends, and recommendations from public health officials. The plan involves multiple phases that gradually allow additional workers to return on-site while practicing social distancing and other safety measures.