Frequently Asked Questions: Reopening

1. How will we know when it's permissible to restart non-essential business functions?

From a national standpoint, the White House has composed a three-phased approach. *Guidelines for Opening Up America Again* are based on location specific data driven conditions, the level of preparedness, and the responsibilities of individuals and employers during each phase of reopening. It is important to follow federal, state, and region specific guidelines. For instance, New York State businesses are to reopen in phases. Regions are opening following the requirements met for the data-driven seven metrics health system. NY.gov provides a [New York Forward Business Reopening Lookup Tool](#) for non-essential businesses in order to determine eligibility for reopening and public health and safety standards for compliance.

Consider these three questions from the CDC when determining business eligibility:

I. Are you in a community no longer requiring significant mitigation?
II. Will reopening be in compliance with state and local orders?
III. Will you be ready to protect employees at higher risk for severe illness?

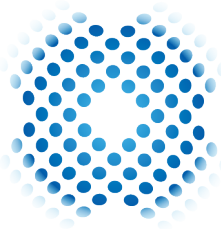### 2. Who should be involved in managing our reopening plan?

Assemble a task force of cross-functional stakeholders to manage each aspect of the reopening plan. Team members from executive, legal, HR, facilities, communications, IT and security operations positions will help define policies, as well as serve as prominent roles in efficient communication.

3. What should the reopening plan cover?

Reopening plans will be industry specific and region based. Reopening plan topics to be covered include but are not limited to; government orders, timing, workplace safety & prevention strategies, testing & health screening, managing employee concerns, workforce communication, litigation mitigation, access control, and visitor/delivery policies.

4. What are some security considerations for workplace safety in reopening?

With employees returning back to work there will be an increased rate of traffic at the workplace. Review all entry and access control policies and consider guard force measurements for facilities. Stay vigilant against civil unrest and the expected uptick in criminal behavior. In particular, consider that your facility may have been vacant for a significant period. Employ appropriate measures to mitigate any undesirable intruders during the vacancy; facility security sweeps, surveillance countermeasures, etc.

5. What types of health screening should we conduct?

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's updated guidance indicates that employers may choose to administer COVID-19 testing to employees before entering the workplace. The testing itself is not a substitute for taking other protective measures at the site. MSA Security plans to conduct *Self Temperature Screening and Employee and Visitor Health Questionnaires* along with other safety measures upon return. Full COVID-19 Temperature Assessment Protocol Policy and Consent & Authorization forms are to be distributed once a definite return date is set.

6. How should we communicate with employees about reopening?

Develop a multi-layered approach to support and communicate to all your employees. Digital and direct communication by managers should both be employed. Emails, Digital Town Halls, Webinars, Questionnaires, on-site signage, and direct communication by managers are all critical components. Communication should address health and safety requirements, allow employees to voice feedback, and facilitate any required contact tracing protocols.

7. Can MSA's explosive detection canines transmit COVID-19 to or from handlers or other humans?

Per current CDC guidance, COVID-19 spreads through person-to-person contact. There are no reports of dogs or other domesticated animals spreading the coronavirus from animal-to-human. Nonetheless, MSA's canine handlers, trainers, and management are closely monitoring canine health throughout the fleet, taking precautions to ensure the welfare of our dogs and all humans with whom they come into contact.

8. What types of threats persist if my facility/venue remains closed?

Though the dangers associated with many mass gathering venues and "soft targets" are reduced with the cancellation of public events, some threats to your venue persist. This includes the potential for pre-operational surveillance, property damage, break-ins, theft, data loss, and secretion of a weapon an explosive device, or measures for technical surveillance. It is important to maintain a baseline level of security infrastructure during this time to protect against these threats, and to mitigate any steadfast vulnerabilities.