

COVID-19 Workplace Changes and the Impacts on Acoustics and Privacy

As workplaces reopen with new guidelines to keep staff safe, the office as we've known it has changed. Reduced occupancy, social distancing, staggered schedules, desk re-configurations, and the use of physical barriers are just a few of the measures being implemented by businesses worldwide. While we hope these changes are temporary, it's important to address how they impact acoustics, specifically in regards to staff comfort and privacy.

PRE COVID-19 WORKPLACE:

- High office occupancy
- No social distancing
- High level of staff activity, conversations, and energy
- Ambient human and inorganic background sound

A comfortable background sound level could be achieved via architectural measures—such as absorbing or blocking materials, along with covering through the use of sound masking.



“NEW NORMAL” WORKPLACE:

- Reduced office occupancy
- Staggered schedules
- Mandatory social distancing
- New reflective surfaces and partitions

With less human activity, new desk configurations, and the introduction of modular barriers and partitions, office acoustics may become inconsistent, non-uniform, and less comfortable for staff.

Facility and design teams should readdress the acoustics of their reconfigured environments.

Consideration must also be made to compensate for a reduced baseline sound level by adding sound masking technology or other architectural elements to help create a space that is comfortable and private.

Learn more about the many ways Biamp's industry-leading, next-generation Cambridge sound masking solutions will benefit your “new normal” workplace.