

Did you know that nearly 13,000 American workers suffer preventable injuries every day? Many of these injuries are the result of something as simple as “repetitive motion”, or small tasks resulting in stress or strain. Even in a quiet office environment, work-related injuries can lead to missed days and compensation claims, ultimately impacting your company’s bottom line. (The National Safety Council reports that the average cost of a worker’s comp claim is \$40,000!) Aside from injury, we have to consider how the continued threat of viral transmission changes the way we work. In a post-pandemic world, it will be important to protect our staff from both sickness and injury. So, how do we make our workplaces safe for the long haul?

### **Preventing Injury**

We’ve gathered a few examples of at-work safety measures and products that can improve conditions and prevent injury:

- **Ergonomics:** One out of three worker’s compensation claims are the result of Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs). Ergonomics reduce pain and prevent MSDs, saving employers an average of 68% in worker’s comp costs every year. Products like [Ergotech’s Freedom Arm](#) allow for adjustments to your computer monitor’s height, depth, and screen angle, promoting good posture and alleviating strain.
- **Fire Hazards:** The National Fire Protection Association estimates that U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 3,340 fires in office properties per year. These fires caused an annual average of four civilian deaths, 44 civilian fire injuries, and \$112 million in direct property damage. Electrical fires are a risk to employee safety, but can be prevented by products like [Power Modules](#), which make sockets easily accessible and eliminate tangled wires. [CPU Holders](#) are also useful for reducing static, by lifting processing units off of the floor. This also protects important equipment from liquid spills.



### Pandemic Protection

In 2020, COVID-19 changed life as we know it, including life at work. On the advice of epidemiologists, we bought face masks, traded in-person meetings for virtual calls, and quickly set up screens in retail environments, hospitals, and offices. More than a year later, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) remind us that social distancing is as important as ever. Their recommendations for reopening the workplace include “altering the workspace to physically separate employees from each other and from customers...using physical barriers, such as partitions”. To help you out, we’ve pulled together a list of ways to meet CDC guidelines at work:

- **Social Distancing:** Viruses, from COVID-19 to the common cold, spread less easily when we give each other some space. In an office environment, it’s important to remain flexible. Mobile workstations like Ergotech’s [Move! desk](#) or AV Cart allow for movement throughout the day, creating distance between workers. Easily reconfigured workspaces will be vital for safety in a post-pandemic world.

- **Partitions:** What about the CDC’s suggestion of physical barriers? We recommend [Ergotech’s polycarbonate FlexShield partitions](#). Here’s why:

- o **Quality:** Poly is 300 times stronger than glass, standing the test of time. Inexpensive acrylic barriers may look the part, but their flimsy, brittle material isn’t made to last. You save upfront, but if your new screens crack, you’ll end up spending twice.

- o **Clarity:** Poly is much more user-friendly than acrylic or glass, as it never fogs up. In commercial offices, crystal clear polycarbonate screens add distance and separation, while still allowing for important visual connection and the flow of natural light.

- o **Customizable:** Poly can be custom designed, fitting naturally into any environment. Ergotech’s polycarbonate FlexShield barriers are used across reception areas, manufacturing floors, lunch rooms, open plan offices, schools, veterinary clinics, and more. What’s more, we offer tailored configurations, using CAD drawings to visualize unique layouts. Whatever your application, [FlexShield](#) adds protection to give you peace of mind. The impact of COVID-19 is likely to be long-lasting, so you’ll want to make sure your safety measures are long-lasting, too.

Both workplace injury and viral transmission can be prevented with a worthwhile investment in the right equipment. If you have more questions about polycarbonate [Flexshield](#) barriers or any of our listed products, get in touch with the Ergotech team at 877.523.2767 or visit [www.ergotechgroup.com](http://www.ergotechgroup.com).