

Initiatives to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, which impacted regions around the world, we put the utmost priority on ensuring the safety of Group employees and their families. In addition to ensuring this priority, we focused on maintaining operations and, to this end, took every possible measure to minimize the pandemic's effect on our operating results.

In February 2020, we established a risk control headquarters and promoted the above endeavors while facilitating information sharing on a global basis.

In the course of our business operations, we have not only striven to ensure employee safety but also done our utmost to secure customer safety. Along with promoting remote working, we have thus shifted to online and other alternative sales activities to prevent COVID-19 infection. Also, in April 2020 we donated 97,500 pairs of nitrile rubber gloves, one of our products, to the Japanese government to support healthcare institutions. Moreover, in July 2020, in response to a government request we have decided to raise our annual production capacity for nitrile rubber gloves to 2 million pairs and, to this end, expanded our facilities at the Malaysia Factory. In May 2021, we brought the expanded facilities on line.

In Japan, we have maintained a policy of encouraging remote working, keeping it up even after the lifting of a state of emergency declaration and thereby curbing the number of employees at work in our offices. Through these and other measures, we are continuously implementing countermeasures against COVID-19 infection in light of country-specific circumstances.

Currently, our mode of operations is changing significantly in step with the aforementioned shift to remote working. Leveraging this shift as an opportunity, we will verify the effectiveness of remote working as part of our pursuit of optimal work styles that enable us to improve productivity in a way that ensures employee health and is employee friendly.

February 2020	We launched our risk control headquarters, which is spearheading discussion on our response to the pandemic while gathering information on a global basis. From mid-February onward, we cancelled various events set to be held thereafter.
March 2020	We began recommending employees at domestic business sites to work at home to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection. For those working at overseas business sites, we issued similar recommendations in response to requests from local governments.
April 2020	Due to the enforcement of a state of emergency declaration in Japan, as general rule, all domestic employees were asked to work at home. We also donated nitrile rubber gloves to the Japanese government to support healthcare institutions. As part of health-oriented management, we launched web-based healthcare sessions in which industrial physicians, health nurses and counselors could engage with employees.
May 2020	Even after the lifting of a state of emergency declaration, we kept our focus on ensuring employee health and maintaining an employee-friendly working environment and, to this end continued to encourage remote working to curb the number of employees commuting to our offices. We have similarly encouraged those operating in overseas business sites to work at home in a manner consistent with region-specific conditions.



Please click here to learn about our latest initiatives to counter the COVID-19 pandemic (Japanese only).