

If you are allowing remote work to your employees during this time, we had gathered various resources on how to help you manage them. Below are a few short tips and links to articles.

Are You and Your Team Ready to Work from Home?

A crisis, like Covid-19, can impact how, when, and where you and your employees work. That's why it's important to be sure everyone on your team is prepared to work from home — perhaps on a moment's notice. Map out which jobs and tasks can and can't be done, even partially, without a physical presence in the office. Then do a thorough audit of the technology that your company uses for remote work. Make sure your employees are comfortable using the various hardware and software. Quickly train people and give them opportunities to practice. You'll also need a clear communications protocol that should include: everyone's contact information; which communication channels you'll use — email, IM, Slack, etc.; how employees are expected to respond to customers; and how and when teams will coordinate and meet. While putting these steps in place, it's also smart to identify ways to measure how effective remote work is for your team. Once the crisis is over, this data will allow you to reflect on what worked, what didn't, and why.

This tip is adapted from "What's Your Company's Emergency Remote-Work Plan?," by Cali Williams Yost

If Your Team Members Work Remotely, Find Ways for Them to Bond

Remote workers often feel excluded from company culture. To build camaraderie on a geographically dispersed team, find meaningful ways for people to connect online. One effective approach is to have everyone watch the same TED talk, read the same book or article, or take the same online learning course, and then discuss it over videoconference. Kick off virtual meetings with an icebreaker question that has nothing to do with work (say, "How did you take your coffee this morning?") to get people relaxed and talking. Another surprisingly helpful tool is video games — yes, video games. While it may sound odd, playing a game that forces people to collaborate and allows them to fail can have multiple benefits: building trust, encouraging them to speak up, and revealing how they navigate challenges together. Doing a group activity like this, even one that may not seem to belong on company time, can be great for team cohesion.

Adapted from "Ideas for Helping Remote Colleagues Bond," by Kutay Shalev

Other Articles:

<https://hbr.org/2015/02/how-to-manage-remote-direct-reports>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2018/05/30/top-15-tips-to-effectively-manage-remote-employees/#69c02148503c>

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90408535/how-to-design-a-productive-routine-when-you-work-remotely>

<https://valgrubbandassociates.com/how-to-make-working-from-home-work-for-you/>