

# WHITE PAPER KastleSafeSpaces

## LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY CAN ENSURE A SAFER RE-ENTRY INTO THE WORKPLACE IN THE COVID-19 ERA

# Introduction

As national lockdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic start to be lifted, the country is collectively preparing to transition back to re-opening. Workplaces that have sat dormant and dark during Stay at Home orders are beginning to open their doors. But anyone who is presenting symptoms of the Coronavirus clearly should not be coming through them. Proper screening needs to be put in place – not only to ensure safe entry but also to inspire in employees the confidence they need to venture back into their workplaces.

Organizations are now tasked with providing a safe space for their workers to come back to. As daunting as that challenge can be, technology is proving a viable partner for enterprises in search of trusted solutions. Kastle is in a privileged position to understand this challenge exceedingly well and has created a blueprint for the safe return to the office. The details of that blueprint are presented here in this White Paper.

# Summary

The extensive scale of our business affords Kastle a clear view into a wide range of workplace and tenant situations and challenges. We've spoken with a comprehensive set of practitioners, allowing us to surface the best thinking and pressure test our solutions. Kastle surveyed more than 1,000 workers across the country in April to understand what mitigation measures they will need – and expect - to see before they return to their workplaces. The data gleaned from this survey has catalyzed Kastle to help organizations assess the solutions they can leverage to address employee concerns and put appropriate safety measures in place.

Kastle has been a security industry forerunner since 1972, providing advanced managed security solutions and services spanning access control, video surveillance, visitor management and identity management and protecting commercial real estate, multi-family residential, global enterprises, educational institutions, and critical government facilities. Taking a proactive lead on ensuring a safe re-entry into the workplace in the COVID-19 era is a responsibility we felt compelled to take on.

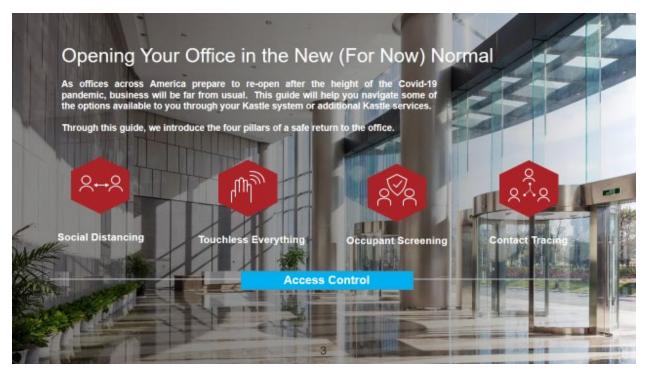
To that end, Kastle has developed a comprehensive and innovative solution, **KastleSafeSpaces**, which employs touchless physical access control, video analytics technology and thermal imaging to integrate with virus-screening and contact tracing processes to enable administrators to confidently rollout a safe return to the office. Existing Kastle access control systems can be used to implement many of the elements of this new framework. Kastle's approach focuses on integrating technology with new processes to immediately accelerate solutions to address four major shifts happening within buildings. These combined pillars of safety and security, much of which are available in current building security systems but not fully activated, include:

#### SHIFT ONE: EVERYTHING IS TOUCHLESS

#### SHIFT TWO: SCREEN IN / SCREEN OUT

# SHIFT THREE: OCCUPANCY MONITORING FOR CONTACT TRACING

#### SHIFT FOUR: SOCIAL DISTANCING



These pillars will be explored in depth in this White Paper. It will also examine how employers can leverage their existing Kastle access control platform to better safeguard workers, cast light on the must-haves employees demand to return safely to work, and present solutions employers can implement to meet those demands.

# **Assessing Employee Needs and Expectations**

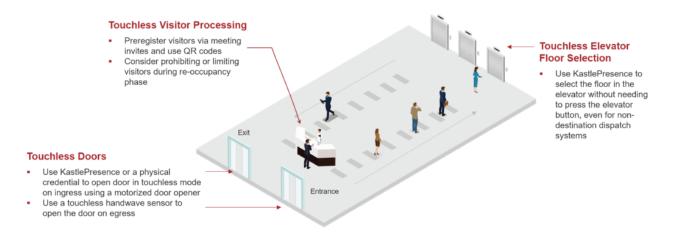
Of the 1,000+ participants Kastle surveyed, all pointed to the importance of having ample supplies of hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes on the premises, as well as the assurance that their offices all be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

Accommodations for Social Distancing also ranked high on the list. But the single most important factor in inspiring confidence to return to work is onsite screening. Without it, seven out of 10 people said they weren't going to feel comfortable coming back to their offices. A person who is known to be infected or showing symptoms should not to be allowed access. Employees expect that a procedure be in place at both the building and tenant office levels to ensure that only healthy people are coming in.

# INSERT SLIDE FROM WEBINAR OF EMPLOYEE VIEW OF A SAFE RETURN TO WORK

#### Shift One: Everything is Touchless

Touchless controls and an integrated app on smartphones will be the new standard throughout office buildings. Our mobile app, Kastle Presence, has been used for years as their hands-free solution. Leveraging the capabilities of an existing Kastle system with the new **KastleSafeSpaces** technologies will enable wireless, hands-free access to doors, turnstiles, elevators, security card readers, visitor kiosks and parking ticket vending machines.

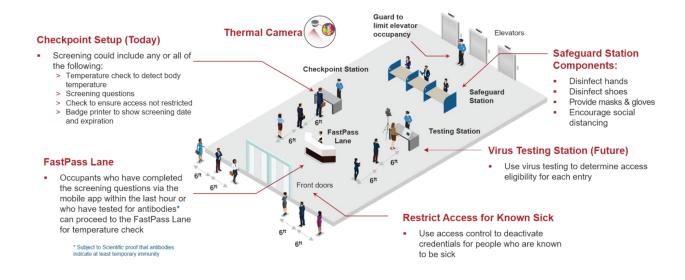


To make front door entrances touchless, there is a near-term opportunity to reuse the motorized door opener that might already be in place for ADA compliance. Kastle can rewire the door such that it can be opened via KastlePresence, making the entire experience touchless. This can also be accomplished with a physical credential that replaces the door button with a hand wave function. For a touchless experience at the visitor desk, people can be pre-registered and head straight to the turnstiles or elevator with a QR code using Kastle's visitor management system. Even in places where the security procedure requires someone to stop at the desk, Kastle can configure the interaction to eliminate contact between the visitor and the guard, and minimize the number of surfaces people need to touch. An area of particular concern is how to transition elevators to being touchless. Kastle is working with leading elevator companies such as OTIS and others to facilitate calling for an elevator and even selecting the floor for the elevator using KastlePresence.

#### Shift Two: Screen in & Screen Out

Office management will opt for the screening of all employees, vendors and visitors entering their facility based on the most appropriate methods for their particular space. These may include app-enabled questionnaires, temperature checks, newly installed thermal cameras or direct virus testing when it becomes

more widely available. **KastleSafeSpaces** facilitates daily screenings of employees, vendors and visitors, making it commonplace and fully integrated with the security access control system to screen out people presenting with symptoms or known to be infected. As the availability of testing increases, those carrying antibodies or testing negative for the virus will screen in and be allowed access. Lobbies will start to resemble airports with testing stations, screening queues, speed lanes, designated check in times and self-check kiosks. Kastle Systems will work closely with Human Resources departments to protect the privacy of all tenants and workers within a building.





### **Shift Three: 24 x 7 Occupancy Monitoring for Contact Tracing**

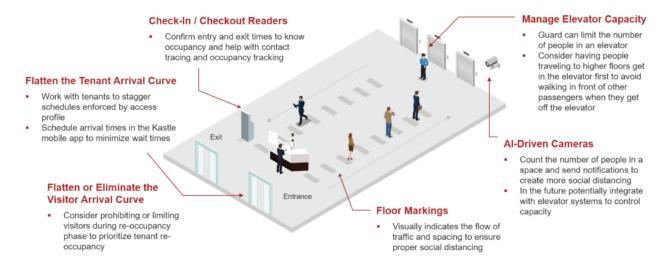
Contact tracing, which is the tracking of individuals who later learn they were infected with COVID-19 as well as those who have come in contact with them, is easily facilitated with **KastleSafeSpaces**. To maximize results, offices should have their access system on 24/7 and require exit readers wherever appropriate. **KastleSafeSpaces** can utilize the existing access control system as a powerful tool to make contact tracing as simple as possible by mandating credential use for both entry and exit traffic for

buildings, floors, tenant office suites and common areas at all times. Proximity data

can be further supplemented via intelligent video technology to investigate close personal contact for more detailed tracking. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, people who are impacted can be quickly and easily notified through the Kastle app. Kastle will be partnering with Public Health and Privacy experts to make sure the information is being used appropriately.

#### **Shift Four: Social Distancing**

**KastleSafeSpaces** uses data and technology-driven reminders to monitor and manage real-time space occupancy, supplementing physical guides to reinforce social distancing. Traffic flow should be in one direction wherever possible and new floor markings will indicate the flow of traffic as well as reinforce how far occupants should stand away from each other for maximum safety. Real-time data reporting can provide notifications for issues such as exceeding floor-level occupancy and suggest the need for greater social distancing if the number of people in a space is too high. Utilizing access control, Kastle can assist tenants in enforcing staggered work schedules to minimize density.



#### **In Conclusion**

Keeping people safe as we battle through the COVID-19 pandemic dictates that we all work together to take a new, whole-building approach to protecting the health and well-being of workers and building tenants. Re-opening safely is critically important. Implementing these forward-thinking procedures in the ways we operate will help mitigate risks not only now but in an uncertain future.

If you are planning to reopen your office and would like to talk through how to best protect your employees and tenants, please contact Jake Heinz, Chief Marketing Officer at <u>jheinz@kastle.com</u> or visit <u>https://www.kastle.com</u>. There are many ways we can help you immediately use your existing Kastle system to accomplish many of these goals.