

## Preparing for Work after the Pandemic

The 2020 pandemic is expected to have a lasting impact on the job market. By taking a look at the future now, you can start preparing for the next phase of your life after school.

### Trends and Facts

According to CNN.com, a huge shift is occurring in favor of remote work, even after a COVID-19 vaccine is in place. More than two-thirds (68%) of large companies plan to downsize their workspace. The pandemic is proving that employees don't need to work in a company building to be productive.

A survey from accounting firm KPMG shows 80% of business leaders have stepped up their digital expansion plans during the lockdown.



A Brookings Institute study reported by Money.com shows that about half of U.S. employees worked from home during the COVID-19 shutdowns. Many companies, including Facebook, Google, Twitter and Morgan Stanley, plan to continue allowing some staffers to telework, even after a vaccine is available and the health crisis is over.

**How will work changes caused by the pandemic affect you?** Virtual work occurs today in occupations that once would have seemed impossible to blend into an online environment. Depending on your career pathway, you may work remotely in the future.

Take the medical field, for example, where a computer or smartphone makes it possible for medical professionals to treat patients whenever needed and wherever the patient is located. You, or someone you know, may have had a telemedicine follow-up visit with your physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner recently.

**New fields of work may open up in your pathway.** Start researching now the telework in your career field, so you can prepare while in school. Many opportunities that you may never have thought about are available currently or will open up. Stay on top of what is happening.

**Your team may be an online group.** You may interact in the same physical space with your team once a week, monthly, or quarterly, instead of daily. Other interactions will be online.

**Networking is more important than ever.** Your network has always been extremely important in finding a job, and it's more important now than ever. Start building your network while you are in school. Find ways to meet professionals in your career pathway, such as attending meetings of a local group in your field. Talk to these professionals, seek their advice about the future. People want to help you. Let them.

**Action:** Brainstorm with yourself or others how remote work might fit with your career. If you are in a trades career, what virtual skills do you need to develop? Can you examine customers' smartphone photos and discuss project requirements and budgets remotely? Can you order materials and supplies online?

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*Note to teachers:* One of the most important requirements for remote work is the ability to communicate in writing with customers, coworkers, supervisors and suppliers. Our newly introduced *On the Job Writing* provides 20 lessons of practical instruction of how to write in work situations. Stories, examples, activities, tip sheets and teacher's notes create an easy-to-implement workplace writing curriculum online. [Click here to access sample lessons from On the Job Writing.](#)

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