

## AMDD Combats COVID-19

To combat COVID-19, American Medical Devices and Diagnostics Manufacturers' Association (AMDD) member companies have come together to save lives and support a return to normalcy by ensuring stable supply of products, increasing production, developing new products related to COVID-19, and implementing measures to keep their workforce safe.

### ● Stable supply of products

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, AMDD member companies have been working to increase production, provide stable supplies, and maintain a large number of COVID-19 related products such as PPE (personal protective equipment), ventilators, pulse oximeters, and syringes for vaccination. In order to achieve this, member companies have negotiated with their U.S. headquarters for supply and switched to transportation methods that prioritize delivery. Member companies have also been implementing infection prevention measures to prevent infection-related product supply disruptions.

### ● Development of new products and technologies

AMDD member companies that manufacture IVDs (in vitro diagnostics) have worked most extensively on developing products that meet essential healthcare delivery needs, such as genetic, antigen and antibody tests. These companies also worked on the development of vaccines, syringes for vaccination, CT IN BOX (a simple container-type CT room), monitors that reduce contact with patients, emergency beds, and other devices needed in the medical field.

### ● Donations\* and personnel support

AMDD member companies have also provided support to various organizations and medical institutions, including provision of PPE, and in-kind and cash donations. Taking advantage of the strength of medical device and IVD companies with relatively large numbers of physicians and nurses, member companies have also provided personnel support for vaccination programs.

### ● Measures to prevent infection within the workforce

Companies have an obligation to protect the health of their employees and those closest to them. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, companies have proactively implemented measures to prevent workplace infections, distributed infection-prevention goods, and promoted telework. At the time of this survey, member companies reported an average 74% reduction in the number of employees physically in the office as a result of telework options (Fig. 1). Eighty-five percent of companies are considering continuing telework after the pandemic to encourage diverse work styles (Fig. 2). Despite many companies not meeting the 1,000-employee requirement for workplace vaccinations, more than half of the companies provided workplace vaccinations (Fig. 3).

### ● Online conferences and meetings

Member companies are also proactively engaging in online meetings and interviews with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA). Ninety-four percent of the companies that held meetings during the survey period responded that they had "moved mostly online" or "moved nearly half of meetings online." In addition to preventing the spread of infection, this has allowed for more efficient scheduling and participation of outside experts and remote employees.

At the same time, online consultation meetings with the PMDA were held without the use of the video function. This made it difficult for participants to communicate during and after the meetings and for reviewers to understand how products are used since they were not able to hold the actual products in their hands, suggesting that this may hinder smooth reviews and approval of applications. While there have been many calls for infrastructure improvements at the MHLW and the PMDA, there is potential that digital transformation improvements related to network and platforms will ensure that online meetings remain an option in the future.

Fig. 1 Reduction of employees in the office as compared to pre-pandemic

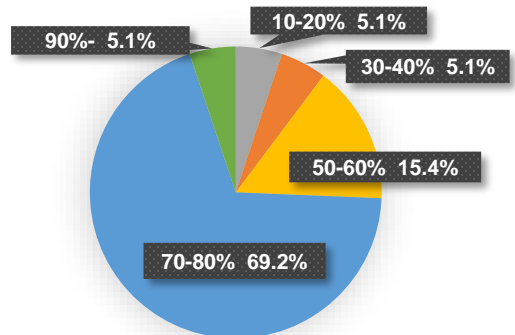


Fig. 2 Plan to continue telework post-pandemic

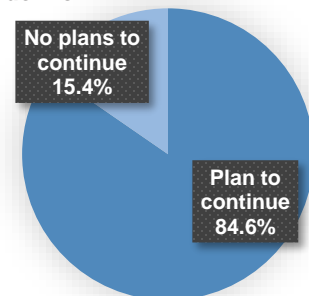


Fig. 3 Workplace vaccination program implemented

