

COVID-19 measures at a private construction company

KAJIMA Corporation
Takeshi Torichigai

1) In-house personnel

During the period of the emergency declaration, we set a goal of reducing the number of employees coming to work by 80% and introduced teleworking. Since the emergency declaration was canceled, however, the number of teleworkers has gradually decreased. Currently the introduction of teleworking varies considerably depending on the division. At the Kajima Technical Research Institute, the number of workers coming to the institute also varies by group, depending on the status of introduction at that group. At my workplace, we mainly conduct experiments, that would be difficult to do by teleworking. Conversely, research groups that focus on simulations have a teleworking ratio that is holding steady at 50% or more.

Within the Kajima Technical Research Institute, almost all of the groups already had separate desks that were separated by partitions, so for the most part additional physical measures to prevent infection were not needed. We placed simple film barriers between desks that faced one another as a measure to prevent infection due to aerosolized particles.



Left: Separate work spaces created through the use of partitions



Right: Use of simple film barriers to prevent infection

2) COVID-19 measures at work sites

Thorough measures are in place at work sites. These include measures to avoid the "3 Cs" (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings), dividing the people at morning assemblies into groups and having them wear masks, disinfecting with alcohol-based sanitizer and so on. At work sites in regional areas, many contractors have reservations about people visiting from the head office (in Tokyo) where there is greater COVID spread, so when it is absolutely necessary to go to the work site, in some cases temperature readings and records of activities for the previous 14 days are submitted. In addition, we actively promote the use of online meetings, and the number of people traveling from the head office has decreased dramatically.

3) Advantages encountered in online operations

Switching to online meetings at our head office (in Akasaka, Tokyo) has greatly reduced the number of trips made to the head office. Moreover, in an increasing number of cases, site support (trial mixing) for concrete blend studies is being provided remotely, eliminating the need for travel time and increasing productivity.