Recently, the World Health Organization acknowledged that the coronavirus may linger in the air in crowded indoor spaces, spreading from person to person. What does that mean for workspaces as firms consider reopening? Today, at 1pm ET, an AIAU live event tackles this topic, with experts discussing how to get back in the office ASAP (as safely as possible). Similarly, this newsletter looks at how design factors can support patients and providers in facilities for COVID-19 care, and other crucial topics.

Look for more must-read industry news and updates from us in our next issue on July 28.

As communities and offices make plans to reopen, AIA resources can help. On August 4, join leading architects, facility managers, and public health experts for a webinar that discusses best practices for using the Risk Management Plan for Buildings, the Re-occupancy Assessment Tool, and the interactive COVID-19 ArchMap to reopen—while minimizing occupant health risks. COVID-19 alternative care sites, the newest resource from AIA’s COVID-19 Task Force, offers design considerations to support patients and providers in facilities for COVID-19 care. Looking for an interesting read? The New Yorker writes that coronavirus will likely reshape architecture, just as tuberculosis did a century ago. This may include new approaches to air conditioning, as research from Harvard suggests it could further spread COVID-19. The Washington Post reports that schools are currently in a race to clean the air, looking to solutions like installing UV-C lights and reprogramming systems to bring in more fresh air.

The pandemic hit the construction industry hard, with nearly a million workers laid off in April alone. Commercial Property Executive dives deep into the question of what lies ahead. Also looking forward, research by McKinsey estimates that construction may not return to 2019-level GDP contribution until Q4 2022. The good news: A forecasted building boom in 2022.

In his June economic update webinar, AIA Chief Economist Kermit Baker focused on the rapidly changing economic conditions and what they could mean for firms. Look for the next Architecture Billings Index report on July 22. Kermit will get into the details in his July 23 update (registration required), where he’ll share the most up-to-date economic data and developments.

AIA continues to push bipartisan leaders in Congress to include vertical infrastructure investment in the next federal COVID-19 response legislation. AIA supports the vertical infrastructure investment in H.R. 2 and multiple bipartisan Senate proposals, including the LOCAL Infrastructure Act. AIA also continues to advocate to make 501(c)6 organizations eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program. Congressional leaders hope to finalize the next response legislation before the end of the month, when lawmakers will return to their districts for the August recess.

The question du jour—how to reopen safely—concerns firm owners everywhere. Today, at 1pm ET, join our AIAU live event where health, HR, and industry experts will discuss office reopening strategies and considerations specifically for architecture firms. You’ll earn 4 LUs in one afternoon and get critical guidance for the future of your firm. A blog post on EntreArchitect has tips to help you shore up revenues, including payments, closing stalled deals, and managing current relationships with good clients.

An August 3 webinar from the Housing & Community Development KC will explore how design thinking can make complex policy and planning issues accessible to diverse audiences. On August 11, an AAH webinar will discuss best practices for a healthy site design. AIA Knowledge Communities provide a variety of ways to learn and connect with your peers—join one of 21 KCs today!