



OVERVIEW:

- Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 & Keeping Employees Safe
- ATN Team Updates
- Alabama Economy Could be on it's Feet by Year's End
- Interested in Helping the Effort to Combat the Spread?
- ATN to Provide Online Training/Learning with New Webinars
- Inside the Network

Alabama Technology Network has the most extensive training and service offerings for business and industry, to ensure the best possible source for your business needs. These include continuous improvement, industrial maintenance & technology, environmental health & safety, and leadership & management development.

Our Mission is to provide industry and business the tools, training and resources to excel.

Follow us



Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 & Keeping Employees Safe

It is no surprise that many Alabamians are feeling the repercussions of COVID-19 and the affect that it has had on our state. While many companies have shut down or transferred to working from home, we can all agree that times are very different and even difficult.

While we continue to flatten the curve and do our part to limit the spread of COVID-19, some companies do not have the ability to stop production, as their products are essential for everyday living.

During this pandemic, the need for information is imperative. Businesses are looking for new ways to operate while keeping employees safe. But how is that possible when dealing with a virus that has affected over a million people around the world? For manufacturers that are considered essential and are remaining open, MAGNET: The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network, Northeast Ohio's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Ohio MEP) partner, has some suggestions on how to keep employees virus-free while working.

In addition to government guidelines which include, [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) and the [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) the group has sources these suggestions based on what companies both locally and globally are doing.

The guidance is as follows:

- All office teams work remotely
- People should keep 6 feet distance
- Temperature checks before entering the factory gate
- Wearing masks or other PPE while in the factory
- All doors are left open or even removed when appropriate
- Increase ventilation rates and increase the percentage of outdoor air that circulates into the system
- Buy all no-touch disposal receptacles or remove lids that require contact to open
- Disinfect all touched surfaces between each shift
- Eliminate all routine shift hand-off meetings
- Read more [+](#)

OSHA states other ways to keep employees safe is to develop an infectious disease preparedness and response plan if one is not already in place and to develop policies and procedures for prompt identification and isolation of sick people, if appropriate.

Most of all ensure that sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that employees are aware of these policies. Communication with your employees is essential. [+](#)

EH ENVIRONMENTAL, &S HEALTH, & SAFETY UPDATE

While many people have their focus on the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, training sessions and special projects are understandably assuming a position of lower ranking on the priorities list. The EHS Team at ATN is here to support you in any way we possibly can during this time, whether that is by providing technical data you might need, helping to research information that is essential to your safety program, or simply talking over the phone to offer encouragement and support.

Since social isolation and distancing has become the most important protective tools we have available at this time, the EHS Team is currently working to produce informational videos, abbreviated training sessions, and other learning tools that can be utilized at any time for you or your team. Some of the topics included are: Respiratory Protection Cleaning Procedures, Overview of Industrial Hygiene, Hazard Awareness of Industrial Hygiene, and Cleaning Products Not to Mix as You Sanitize Your Workplace or Home.

If you have a topic that might be needed for a brief training session, such as a toolbox talk of 5-10 minutes, please let us know. We have the tools to provide that for you. We are also very open to taking suggestions for webinars that we can launch in the coming days or weeks.

Our ultimate goal is to support you and your business in any way that we can. We are more than happy to take your calls or emails to provide whatever assistance that might be needed.

Contact: Tim Croley tcroley@atn.org

CI CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

The Continual Improvement team offers training and assistance in the areas of lean and quality. The primary focus of this team is maximizing efficiency and product quality through process improvement. This team offers training in using tools and management systems to bring about positive change, as well as assistance or facilitation with implementing the various lean and quality tools or management systems at client companies.

"The Continual Improvement Team has been at work developing an Inventory Management (Kanban) class. Participants will learn how to have processes in place to signal inventory needs to reduce/eliminate out of stock conditions and determine the "right" amount of inventory for your operation. In this course you will learn how to implement 4 types of Kanbans (min/max, 2-bin, FIFO lane, and kanban card system), using our simulation. Course participants will determine re-order points and re-order quantities using simple calculations."

Contact: Chris Anderson canderson@atn.org
or Sharon Ingle single@atn.org

L&M LEADERSHIP & MD MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Leadership & Management Development are at an all time high right now. Companies, are looking for answers and leadership might be struggling. ATN can help by offering the following two courses.

Managing Change and Uncertainty in the Workplace together the topics constitute a 2-hour session where team leaders will explore (1) the critical elements of effective change management and the team leader/supervisor's role; (2) the traps that lead to failure; (3) why change leads to fear and how to control that; (4) methods for developing better Emotional Intelligence; and (5) ways to control workplace stress. The session includes group scenarios, brief quizzes and individual exercises.

Supervisory Leadership for new or replacement supervisors, and more seasoned ones needing a refresher course – the 2-hour session covers best practices relating to coaching, safety, legal aspects, documentation, and managing former peers. Self-assessments and group scenarios with open discussion are included.

Short refresher courses on Effective Communication, Personal Leadership, Corrective Action, Motivation and Conflict Management can be developed as well.

Contact: Jeff Graham jgraham@atn.org

IM INDUSTRIAL &T MAINTENANCE & TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

During the current pandemic facing our state, Alabama Technology Network is determined to find new ways to deliver training.

We would like to be there for your company and continue to help you succeed during this time of transition. ATN will soon begin to offer online training/learning via webinars.

ATN's Industrial Maintenance and Technology team will offer 1-2-hour webinars to assist your company, free of charge.

Some of the topics available will be:

- Arc Flash-NFPA70E
- Siemens PLC
- Allen Bradley ControlLogix PLC
- Hydraulics Safety
- Electrical Fundamentals.

Contact us today and let us assist you. Let us know if there are other services that might interest you. We look forward to working with you! More information coming soon.

Contact: Jeff Lankford jlankford@atn.org or
Gina Webb gwebb@atn.org

Alabama Economy Could be on it's Feet by Year's End

Alabama accounts for 1.1 percent of U.S. GDP and 1.5 percent of the population, which defines a potential range regarding COVID-19 impacts on the state economy relative to national impacts. For example, a \$1 trillion national impact could mean an \$11 billion to \$15 billion impact on Alabama. However, several factors can make the range larger or smaller. These include the nature of the impacts, the behavioral component of the response, and differences in demographics and economic structure. Second quarter Alabama GDP will most likely decline by about 3-4 percent, with employment falling much faster. Any recovery in the third quarter will be quite weak due to supply-side constraints facing Alabama manufacturers and weak consumer demand and business spending. Optimistically, the state economy will be back on a normal path of recovery by the fourth quarter.

Portions of the economy at risk of significant declines include travel and travel-related businesses, food services and eating places, tourism and leisure, support services, auto dealers, gas stations, education, manufacturing firms that rely on exports and/or overseas suppliers for their inputs, and other businesses that depend on consumer and business spending. These firms together employ nearly 1.2 million workers (or about 58 %) of the total nonfarm employment in the state...+

Interested in Helping the Effort to Combat the Spread?

With the current health emergency and related strain on our economy, there are many manufacturers and businesses seeking information to assist their businesses and/or seeking opportunities to find what they can do to be helpful in the face of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Foundation for Manufacturing excellence has established a resource website as well as some bullet points to let manufacturers understand if they are in a good position to help out, as well as an email address to contact at HHS.

Email [Device Shortages](#) with COVID-19 -related inquiries if:

- You do not normally manufacture masks/gowns/gloves/PPE but might have capabilities to do so (e.g., have a 3d printer, have a factory) & want to help ("Helper Companies & Individuals"), inside or outside the US
- You need information on importing masks/gowns/glove/PPE/ventilators/diagnostics from outside the US
- You are outside the US want to ship masks/gowns/gloves/PPE/ventilators/diagnostics to hospitals in the US
- You would like to fast-track a new product to get on the US market (including Emergency Use Authorizations)
- You have questions related to reuse, reesterilization, or substitution/modification of PPE/ventilators/diagnostics/accessories +

ATN to Provide Online Training/Learning with New Webinars

ATN is proud to serve as the local MEP center in Alabama. For those of you that don't know, the MEP program is a national network with specialists who understand the needs of America's Manufacturers. With over 590 years of manufacturing experience combined, ATN is exceptional at providing Alabama companies with services and private resources to enhance growth, improve productivity, reduce costs, and expand capacity but like all of you, we have had to find new ways to operate.

We know that many manufacturers are still operating during the pandemic, so their need of training does not simply go away. Even though we cannot assist you in person, ATN's team of experts have been working extremely hard to provide you with the best service.

ATN is proud to announce new **WEBINARS** will be used to provide workforce training and refresher courses to clients.

If you are interested in new training or refresher courses for your team, ATN is here to help! Contact a team leader (information from page 2) and let them know exactly what you are looking for.



INSIDE THE NETWORK

Click the map to learn more about each ATN location including staff and contact information.

[ATN 's University partner, Alabama Productivity Center to help in the aid of health care workers](#)

[COVID-19 Resources & Helpful Links](#)

Congratulations on your **WORKIVERSARY!**

Pam Elrod - 20 Years

Robert Tomlinson - 20 Years