



# The World Will Never Be the Same, **It Will Be Better**

Prepare and upgrade your facilities for a safe return

**ELKAY®**

# Index

	Page
• Introduction .....	3
• Section 1:	
Have a Safe Return to the Office .....	4
• Section 2:	
It's Time to Get Back to School Safely .....	9
• Promotional:	
Safe and Sustainable Hydration .....	11
• Conclusion .....	13
• Sources .....	14



# Introduction

Circumstances have given us the opportunity to reconsider how human beings interact with the environment. We've already learned that some of the actions once considered normal actually have a very aggressive impact on our planet. But in this realization lies a positive opportunity – a wakeup call for us to live a more sustainable life.



For the very first time in almost **30 years**, the **Himalayas** were visible as the confinement of **India** diffused **54%** of its everyday air pollution.

(Source: CNN)



**Dolphins** and **fish** appeared in **waterways** as **Venice's canals** ran **clearer** due to lockdown measures, such as stopping all non-essential travel.

(Source: CNN)



**European** governments, **investors**, **corporations**, and the **general public** are taking a stand on sustainability as a base for economic recovery.

One of the top priorities is to invest in **renewable energies** and give them a push in our industries.

(Source: Earth.org)



**Global air quality** had a dramatic improvement. There was a considerable decrease in **PM<sub>2.5</sub>**, **PM<sub>10</sub>**, **NO<sub>2</sub>**, and **contaminants** due to lower industrial activity.

(Source: ScienceDirect)



**It is estimated** that worldwide carbon emissions have fallen nearly **8%** this year.

(Source: Earth.org)



**So, let's look on the bright side.** Today, more than ever, we are more conscious of our lifestyles. We have worked together as a team throughout these months of confinement to look after ourselves and each other. And now it is time to strengthen our efforts as we prepare for a safe return to all the places we have missed.

It's important for us to examine the environmental degradation that's been caused and put into action the lessons we've learned from it – our daily routine can contribute to a more sustainable world for both human beings and nature.

With all of this in mind, as we return to our daily activities, let's work together to preserve the well-being of one another and the communities **in which we live and work.**





## SECTION 1: HAVE A SAFE RETURN TO THE OFFICE



### HAVE A SAFE RETURN TO THE OFFICE

In some countries, remote work has been encouraged in response to the official safety measures. This seemed risky at first to some well-established corporations, as their staff had to adapt their daily professional activities and find a quiet and comfortable place at home where they could perform their best.

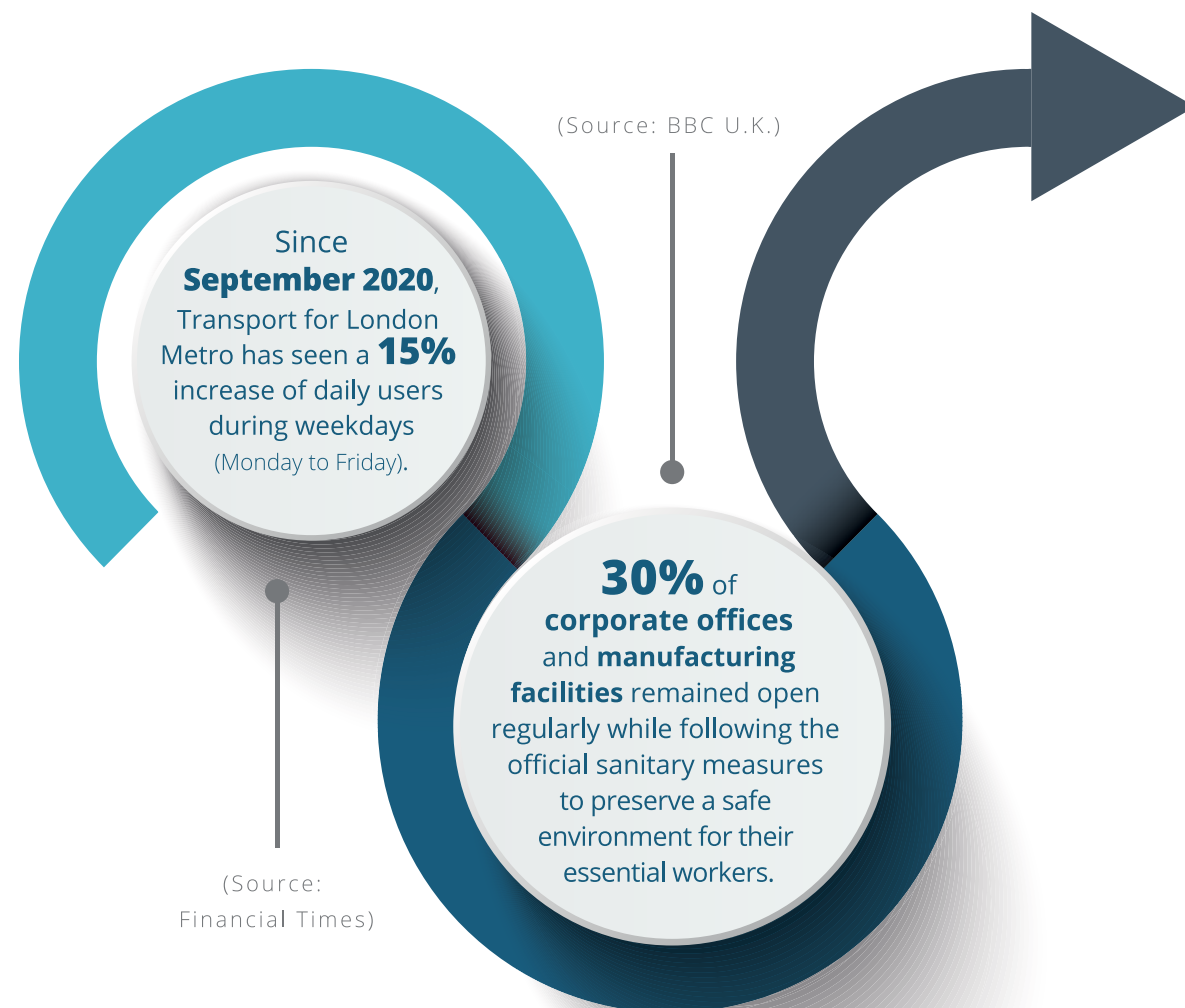
Working from home, naturally, brought families together in the times when they needed each other the most. This was one big exercise of trust and care for both parts: the people who were living together, as well as the work teams that had to develop and rely on new ways to get things done in a new environment.

Since the **beginning** of lockdown, back in April 2020, **46.6%** of people have worked remotely.

**57%** of them currently live in the **London area**.

(Source: Office for National Statistics)

## SECTION 1: HAVE A SAFE RETURN TO THE OFFICE



But we can't forget about those empty corporate buildings and areas that we left behind due to the pandemic. For every employee vowing never to return, there's another itching to get back to the office. There, they have a designated space to do their best work without interruptions, with an efficient desk setup and face-to-face meetings with clients and co-workers, subject to official safety measures.

As a means of prevention and to help balance personal and work lives, some companies are offering flexible schedules to their employees. These schedules merge the benefits of occasional remote workdays with more quality time when it matters most to the employee. And it seems to be having a positive impact.

## PREPARE AND UPGRADE YOUR FACILITIES FOR A SAFE RETURN

Whenever and however it happens, it is crucial for us to understand that the work we're returning to will be quite different to the one we left. It is likely that some people are going to find it hard to adapt to this new way for socializing at the office while following the official safety measures at all times.

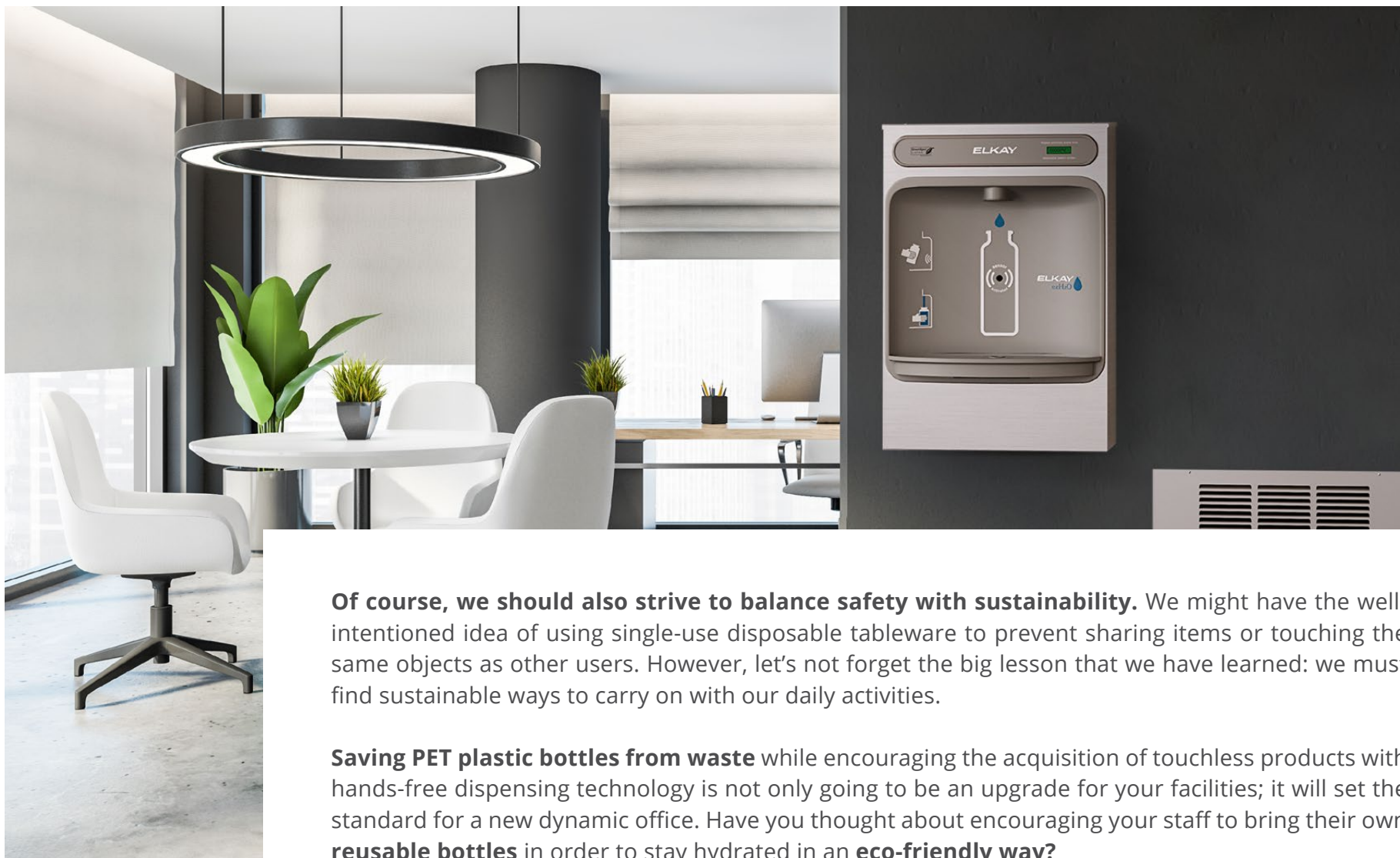
## SECTION 1: HAVE A SAFE RETURN TO THE OFFICE

**Most companies and educational institutions** are going to have to upgrade their facilities in order to provide a safe space for their staff and users. Cafeterias and conference rooms may need to be relocated if the area is not large enough for everyone to practice social distancing.

Some of the **recommended actions** to take from day one are:

RECEPTION	CAFETERIA	OFFICES	MEETINGS
Include sanitation mats to avoid contamination by shoe soles.	Encourage exclusive and personal use of tableware and dishes.	Recommend personal of pens, notebooks, Post-Its and other office supplies.	Promote short meetings on specific issues.
Social distance from the entrance and in elevators (signs on the floor).	Set tables up no closer than 1.5m from one another. (less chairs at each table).	Social distance between cubicles (consider screen implementation).	Consider holding stand-up meetings or relocating chairs for a greater social distance if possible.
Require identification with visitor registration and temperature control (<38°).	Promote natural ventilation and open spaces (relocation).	Promote an environment of social distance (greeting each other elbow to elbow).	Promote natural ventilation and open spaces for meetings instead of enclosed meeting rooms.
Encourage use of anti-bacterial gel for hand sanitation.	Encourage use of anti-bacterial gel for hand sanitation.	Make available use of anti-bacterial gel for hand sanitation.	Encourage use of anti-bacterial gel for hand sanitation.
Mandate use of PPE*.	Mandate use of PPE* before and after food intake.	Mandate use of PPE* when breaking social distancing.	Allow the use of PPE* if any of those involved require it.
Regularly clean and disinfect common areas.	Acquire of new hands-free units (touchless) for hydration and other daily operation activity.	Promote a staggered shift schedule to reduce the use of facilities and the flow of people.	Disinfect the area before and after each meeting.

\* PPE: personal protection equipment (face shield, mask, anti-bacterial gel and/or latex gloves)

**SECTION 1: HAVE A SAFE RETURN TO THE OFFICE**

**Of course, we should also strive to balance safety with sustainability.** We might have the well-intentioned idea of using single-use disposable tableware to prevent sharing items or touching the same objects as other users. However, let's not forget the big lesson that we have learned: we must find sustainable ways to carry on with our daily activities.

**Saving PET plastic bottles from waste** while encouraging the acquisition of touchless products with hands-free dispensing technology is not only going to be an upgrade for your facilities; it will set the standard for a new dynamic office. Have you thought about encouraging your staff to bring their own **reusable bottles** in order to stay hydrated in an **eco-friendly way**?



**SECTION 2: IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY****IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY**

The education sector has been capable of an outstanding adaptation for their teaching methods to go from the classroom to an institutional Zoom or Hangouts meeting. These past few months, universities and other academic institutions have encouraged most of the in-person, on-campus classes to move to remote. Most academic facilities already had this type of education scheme, but it was only designated for exceptional cases. Therefore, teachers, principals, additional staff and students have had to work together to expand the outreach of remote learning.

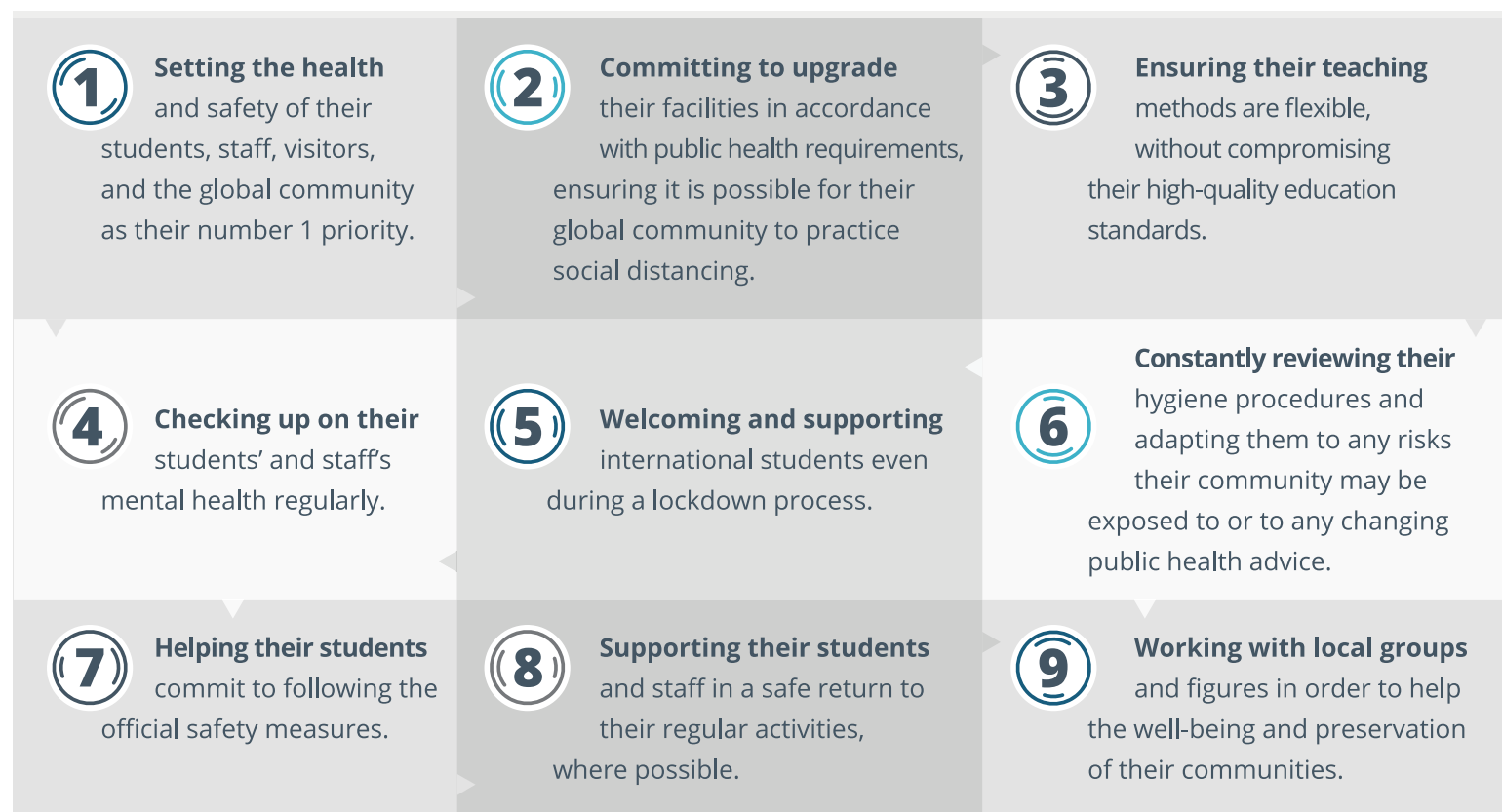
**Although new technologies** have enabled students to stay “in” class and stay on top of their work, an important part of education consists of social interaction and teamwork. Throughout the students’ university years, it is essential for them to form new partnerships with their peers to take their good ideas to the outside world.

**Following the plan for a safe return to our daily activities, most universities and academic facilities reopened for good in September 2020.**

In order to preserve a safe environment in this return, students must follow the official sanitary measures. Aside from regular hand-washing, students need to avoid direct contact with objects and surfaces wherever possible, and even use **PPE** (*personal protection equipment*) when appropriate.

## SECTION 2: IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY

In fact, there are nine principles that academic institutions such as **The University of London and The University of Cambridge** are implementing on their students and staff. These are:



(Source: Universities U.K.)

**It is important to remember that the students are our future.** Universities in the UK are fully committed to giving the best education to this new generation and preparing them for the global challenges they will face soon: the global transition toward a more sustainable world.

**Luckily**, there has been quite a lot of interest in ecological matters from the student community **between 18 and 29 years of age** (Source: *Business Leader*). As the staff in charge, it is important to keep this interest in a better world alive and, above all, to continue improving the academic institution's vision of a brighter future.

**PROMOTIONAL: SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE HYDRATION****The 8x8 Rule:**

It is recommended to drink **eight 8-ounce** glasses of pure water a day.

**Dehydration during our daily activities** has severe negative effects on **productivity** and well-being. Drinking up to **eight 8-ounce glasses** of pure water a day is a simple way to stay healthy and receptive. However, up to **32%** of students are not able to follow this simple **8x8 rule**. Meanwhile, **49%** of adult workers who go to the doctor for tiredness and fatigue cases are reported to be dehydrated.



- When a person is dehydrated, their performance reduces by nearly **23%**.
- Being mildly dehydrated for **two hours** can have consequences on both body and brain, and it is estimated that a person can lose **1.6%** body mass while being unable to concentrate.

**The return to work or school places enormous pressure on the body and brain.** So, hydration plays a key role in a safe return. For this reason, Elkay supplies a large selection of no-touch, sanitary, sensor-activated bottle filling stations and water coolers in a variety of styles and configurations. They are manufactured in stainless steel and innovative technology to be easy to use and clean. In addition, we have filters that are made with activated carbon to improve taste and odor. Many also reduce contaminants such as lead. **Our WaterSentry® filters are NSF-certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 42 and 53 for reduction of lead, Class 1 particulate, chlorine, taste and odor.**

(Sources: ISHN & Billi U.K.)



**PROMOTIONAL: SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE HYDRATION**

**Our hands-free bottle filling stations provide a touchless, quick, and clean fill.** Just place your reusable water bottle close to the no-touch sensor to automatically start refilling without touching anything. Our hands-free water coolers feature foot-pedal operation that provides healthy, hygienic hydration and integral hood guards on bubblers to prevent contamination.

With a strong commitment to health and our communities, **Elkay offers many types of drinking water products to be installed indoors and outdoors, such as:**

- Coolers and water fountains
- Bottle filling stations
- Combinations of bottle filling stations with single, bi-level, or versatile coolers
- Filtration systems and accessories

For more information, please contact our expert advisors at [europe@elkay.com](mailto:europe@elkay.com) or visit [elkayeurope.com](http://elkayeurope.com). When your needs for water delivery go beyond the norm, Elkay's got it covered.

**We are here for you today, tomorrow and forever.**

(Sources: ISHN & Billi U.K.)

## Conclusion:

As we return to the places we've missed so much, we should stay positive together and remember that we may never go back to the previous state of normalcy. The world has changed and it may never be the same again, but it will hopefully be better.

**Let our communities thrive and overcome with the best possible attitude.**





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