



## Members Respond to the Coronavirus Challenge

Week of 27 April 2020

Jessica Jia, Office Management,  
Bayer, Shanghai



### **What's the biggest work/COVID-19 challenge you're facing this week?**

There is no challenge this week (Apr 29), everything is running well.

But if you mean the biggest challenge during whole COVID-19 fighting period, that's PPE purchasing. During Chinese New Year period, it's very difficult to buy all the things relevant to COVID-19 prevention, including, masks, disinfectant, instant hand sanitizer, etc. Fortunately, starting from March, it's getting better and better.

### **What's the current situation in your city relative to opening non-essential businesses?**

In Shanghai, most shops, restaurants, gyms, etc. are opened. The business still closed are cinemas, theaters, and big recreation center, like Disney Park. Schools are opening step by step.

### **How do you think COVID-19 will bring about permanent changes in corporate real estate and workplace strategy?**

Because of COVID-19, everybody works from home for certain period, and it, in general, works. So some managers who resist home office concept in the past may change idea. However, when the office could open, many staff also hoped to return to office. It shows working face-to-face in office is also very important. Future workplace strategy may offer more flexible spaces to the staff and give them more options to choose. But whether the company will go for that direction, it's really subject to the company culture and the leadership.