



News You Can Use

A Note From Our District Chair, Tamara Dudukovich

Dear Friends,

Not-so-new newsflash: the current global pandemic is rapidly reshaping how we construct our urban environment and organize our personal, professional, and civic lives. What does “Placemaking” mean in this time of shelter-in-place? How do we convene and connect in an era of social distancing and self-isolation? How will the office be different after we all learn to work remotely?

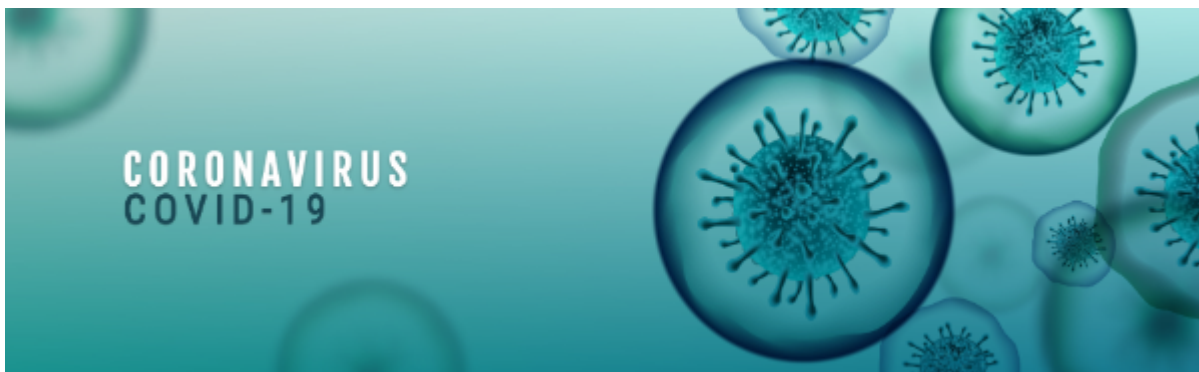
Like so many others, by necessity and in the interest of public health, ULI Pittsburgh is hitting “pause” on our standard programming. **We love hosting convenings, tours, and conversations in real life to share best practices and bring real estate practitioners together, but since we can’t do that now, we’re launching this weekly news blast to stay connected.**

Each edition will include selected real-estate relevant content that we hope you’ll find useful and enjoyable. **Practical tips plus provocative ideas.** It’s a work in progress, and we’ll be offering links to an eclectic mix of articles, references, webinars, and podcasts on topics that pertain to directly to COVID 19 and the coronavirus as well as those relate to business-as-usual topics in these unusual times.

We also want to build a forum here in cyberspace for our local ULI Pittsburgh members to exchange ideas. **We’re especially excited to take your “Pulse.”** This interactive feature is an opportunity for you to tell us what’s going on in the beating heart of the regional real estate community. Let us in on what worries nag at you at night and what deals get you out of bed in the morning. Share some thoughts – or post some images – of places, projects, or people you find inspiring.

Until we meet again,

Tamara



Confronting COVID-19: Social Distancing, Buildings, and Lessons from Asia

By: ULI Staff

March 16, 2020

Communities around the world are racing to control the spread of the novel coronavirus and the disease that it causes, COVID-19. Increasingly, that means implementing aggressive social distancing measures, which can inhibit the spread of the virus and flatten the transmission curve.

Governments have been shutting down schools, restaurants, large group gatherings, and other functions, and individuals have been limiting their interaction with other people.

Some functions, such as government operations, communications, pharmacies, and IT operations, still require essential personnel to report to government and commercial buildings, allowing the larger community to telework and function from their homes. Adoption of staggered work schedules with adequate physical spacing can help reduce the spread of infection, and building-management strategies can also be employed to mitigate the spread of disease.

[Read more](#)

Tactics for Minimizing COVID-19 Transmission in the Built Environment

By [Madeleine D'Angelo](#)

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's online pathogen identification database [MicrobeNet](#) and the [Biology and the Built Environment \(BioBE\) Center](#) at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore., have expediently published a paper outlining transmission pathways of COVID-19 in the built environment, hoping to provide the industry guidance on minimizing the virus's spread.

Researchers began drafting the paper "[2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Outbreak: A Review of the Current Literature and Built Environment \(BE\) Considerations to Reduce Transmission](#)" last week, synthesizing a decade's worth of MicrobeNet and BioBE Center information on "common pathogen exchange pathways and mechanisms," according to the abstract. The paper is

currently under review, but is published at Preprints to make the information available as soon as possible given [COVID-19's rapid spread](#).



Read more

A Marshall Plan for Retail Property Owners

By [John McNellis](#)

March 18, 2020

Because we've been in the neighborhood shopping center business for decades, not only our tenants, but also our competitors have begun asking us what, if anything, we're going to do to help our small businesses in this plague year.

As of mid-March, all our tenants in the greater San Francisco Bay Area (save supermarkets, banks, and a few others) have been shut down for several weeks by government order.



Read more



Webinar: Spread of COVID-19: Social Distancing and Buildings

March 24, 2020

1:00-2:15pm ET

Governments around the world are racing to control the spread of the coronavirus. Essential steps include careful hand-washing and urgent and comprehensive "social distancing" to minimize all unnecessary interpersonal contact. Slowing the transmission of COVID-19 provides additional time to those who are on the front lines of the battle against the disease and helps "flatten the curve" of the outbreak; during a pandemic, time is a precious and life-saving gift. Building management and operational strategies can support

and complement comprehensive social distancing measures. In this webinar, hear from experts in infectious disease, healthy buildings, and pandemic planning.

REGISTER NOW



Webinar: Best Practices in Building Maintenance: ULI Asia Pacific Member Leaders Address COVID-19

On March 11, 2020, ULI Asia Pacific curated a conversation among member leaders that looked at best practices in building maintenance. The webinar focused on steps managers can take to reduce the spread of pathogens within their buildings. Each speaker shared their experiences, observations, and insights related to the current COVID-19 situation. Speakers included an established landlord, an air-conditioning specialist, and an experienced indoor environmental consultant.

(ULI Member Only Access)

Watch Webinar Recording

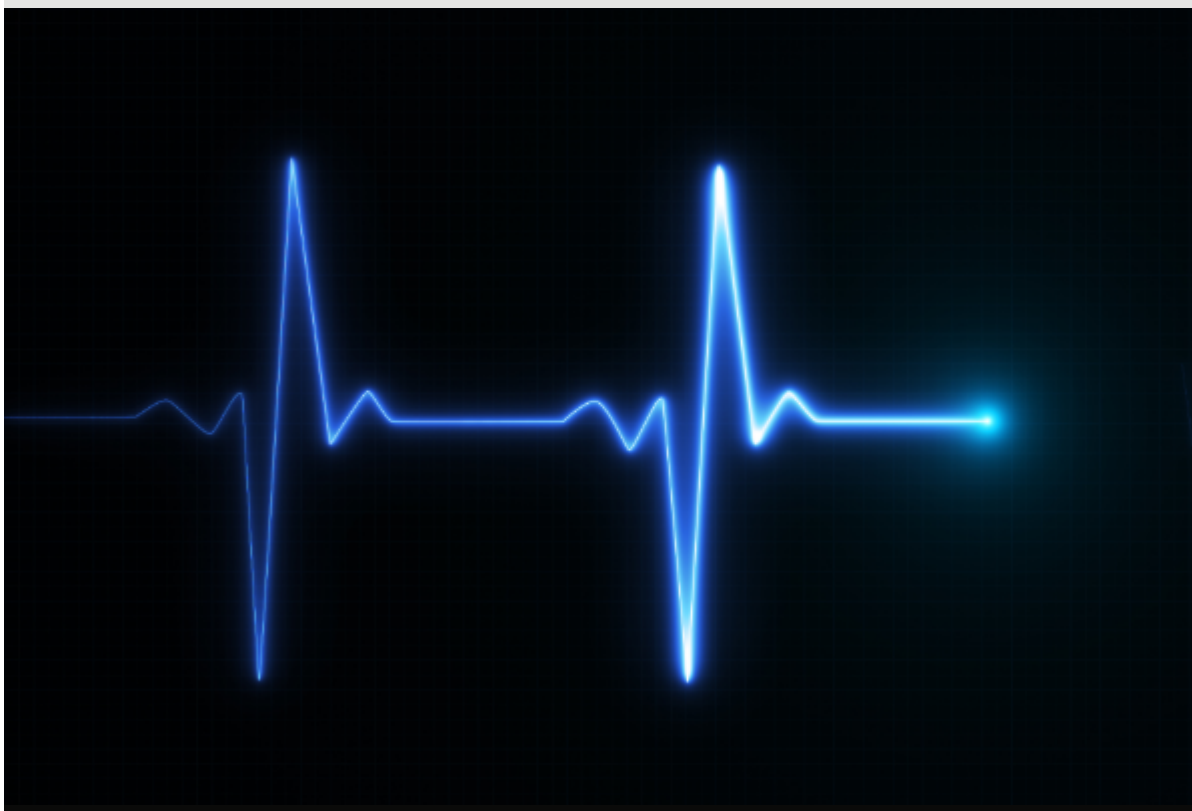
On The Pulse

ULI Pittsburgh's On The Pulse question is meant to engage our District Council Members in discussion by live polling questions that address what is going on in the real estate industry during this trying time. Please follow this [link](#) to participate.

This week's question:

Where is the first local place you are going after social distancing comes to an end?

If you have a question to ask your fellow colleagues, we would be glad to help you. Please email [Jami Pasquinelli](#), District Manager for more info.



Other Resources & News

Air Filtration in Schools May Improve Test Scores Title Here

By [Paula Melton](#)

The [cognitive effects of outdoor air pollution](#) can be devastating, particularly for schoolchildren. A [new working paper](#) suggests that there may be an inexpensive correction for this—cleaning up indoor air using air filters.

The study took advantage of the political fallout from a 2015–16 gas leak in California. Residents demanded protection from the effects of the gas, and as part of that, the gas company ended up installing air filters in schools located within five miles of the leak. It turned out that the gas dissipated before ever entering the schools, but the circumstances inspired working paper author Michael Gilraine, Ph.D., of New York University to study the impacts of the air filters.

He compared test scores between schools with air filtration and those nearby that did not have air filtration. Students with filtered air significantly out-performed their peers without filtered air on both math and English tests. The effects were comparable to decreasing class size by a third, according to Matthew Yglesias, writing for [Vox](#).



[Read more](#)

Featured Photo



Project by Anne Chen, AIA, LEED AP
GBBN
[PSU Behrend Federal House](#)

This building, scheduled for a fall 2020 construction start, provides a new home—offices, classrooms, and event space—for the Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Community Outreach, Research, and Evaluation (CORE), an effort by Penn State Behrend's School of Humanities and Social Sciences. In a county where one in three children under five live in poverty (in the city of Erie, PA it's nearly half), CORE fosters positive youth development and a culture of hope through mentoring and education programs. Creating space of inclusion and security, the design communicates to its young visitors that they are valued, welcoming its visitors, so whether they're headed to mentoring sessions in the small classrooms on the second floor or the 100-person event space just inside the entrance, they know that this space is for them.



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