



Kiosks Aid in Safe Reopenings Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

By **Steve Arel** | Contributing writer, Kiosk Marketplace

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KIOSKS AID IN SAFE REOPENINGS AMID CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

One of the challenges of COVID-19 – besides developing a vaccine to eradicate it – is knowing who actually carries the virus. After all, even someone seemingly in perfectly good health and exhibiting no signs of illness can unknowingly and easily transmit the disease to others.

With nearly 4 million Americans infected since the beginning of 2020, and more than 140,000 perishing, the coronavirus pandemic has significantly altered – perhaps permanently – the way in which we interact.

Retailers, restaurants, schools, factories and, in particular, healthcare facilities stand at the forefront of the crisis, with managers working diligently to re-establish their presence and financial footing – all while keeping their employees and guests safe as they do so.

Businesses have severely limited and, in many instances, prohibited visitors to their stores, making their products and services available only to limited numbers or those seeking curbside or drive-thru access. But as states begin lifting restrictions and slowly gravitating toward a state of normalcy, allowing citizens to mill about more freely, the threat remains as challenging as ever for businesses.



THE PROBLEM

With no proven vaccine and contagiousness remaining a significant threat, companies are hesitant to simply throw open their doors to everyone. With countless people being asymptomatic, and no one, including business leaders themselves, knowing who carries the virus, those operations don't have the time, money or people to station workers at their entrances to take every visitor's temperature or to question them about their immediate well-being.

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Because those who face considerable vulnerability – namely elderly citizens and those with chronic medical conditions – still need to venture out in public, companies want to ensure adequate social distancing measures are maintained. More importantly, they don't want to potentially subject those citizens to someone exhibiting symptoms.

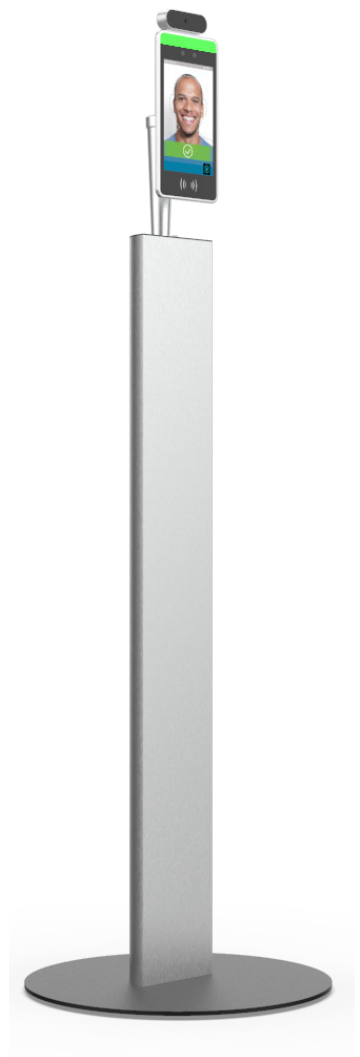
THE SOLUTION

While such kiosks are not intended to be relied upon to diagnose or exclude a diagnosis of COVID-19, or any other disease or health condition, those like Meridian's Personnel Management Kiosk help companies by enabling them to check the temperatures of visitors in contactless fashion within two seconds to determine whether they can be admitted into their facility. The units deliver with considerable accuracy, pinpointing a person's temperature with plus or minus 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit.

The units, using infrared technology, not only can detect a person's temperature, but their facial-recognition capabilities allow images of staff members and other authorized visitors to be loaded and stored into the system and verified when those individuals are scanned by a camera on kiosk. As a result, alarms can be programmed to sound when those above the temperature threshold and those without access attempt to enter.

When it comes to the capabilities of such systems, leading kiosk manufacturers like Meridian Kiosks, which produces a line of Personnel Management Kiosks, are clear: Personnel Management Kiosks should not be relied upon to diagnose or exclude a diagnosis of COVID-19 or any other disease or health condition.

Units such as those produced by Meridian Kiosks can come with antimicrobial screen protectors and hand sanitizer dispensers affixed to the enclosure. An antimicrobial powder-coat finish can also be applied to the base of the unit to ensure durability and prevent the spread of germs.



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As the business world rustles from its mandated pause, Personnel Management Kiosks serve a number of purposes to forward the operational strategy. In areas where citizens entering any establishment are required to wear a mask, the camera on the kiosk can view customer to verify they have one on.

The unit's design – featuring a standard 8-inch LCD screen anchored atop an aluminum pedestal and baseplate and a countertop version – makes it extremely agile. Tethered to a LAN or wireless connected to the internet, it can be plugged into a standard outlet and positioned near entrances, elevators or other spots to help alleviate traffic or to meet guests where they are physically.

THE RESULT

A growing number of personnel management kiosks are being deployed to businesses nationwide. The fact that the units are allowing facilities to rapidly identify incoming visitors or employees with elevated temperatures puts staff members interacting with the public more at ease, making them feel more comfortable and safer.

Facility leaders believe the kiosks will remain as permanent fixtures of their operations.

As businesses and organizations begin to reopen and employees return back to work, temperature screening is a precaution that many are putting in place.

ABOUT THE SPONSOR:

Meridian is a fully integrated manufacturer of indoor and outdoor kiosks, interactive digital signage and self-service software. As a complete end-to-end self-service innovator, Meridian develops products and services all under one roof, providing greater efficiency, and lean, high-quality results. For nearly two decades, we've helped our partners succeed by designing, engineering, manufacturing and integrating hardware and software solutions from our 13-acre headquarters in North Carolina.

