



CASE STUDY

Manufacturing: United Precision Products

COVID-19 dramatically affected worker health and business productivity across the US and the world. After three employees tested positive for COVID-19 in April 2020, business at Michigan-based aeronautical machine shop United Precision Products (UPP) halted due to concerns of employee safety. United Precision Products implemented DxTerity's onsite employee COVID-19 test in order to ensure worker safety, increase productivity, and provide peace of mind for employees and managers alike.

Fear of COVID infection leads to reduced output

United Precision Products (UPP) is a Michigan-based machining plant that fabricates aircraft engine parts for military and commercial customers. They employ a staff of 45 and run two shifts per day, 6 days per week. After one of their employees was hospitalized for COVID-19 in April 2020, they suspended operations, sent their staff home on paid leave, and hired a firm to disinfect their facility. Despite the deep cleaning, employees were frightened about returning to work, and several

staff members took personal time off to avoid coming back to the office.

Productivity plummeted. "We lost 2/3 of our man-hours in April," stated Robert Bloom, Vice President of UPP. "As a military contractor, we couldn't afford this sort of backlog." To restore staff confidence and bring people back to work, UPP started looking at options for SARS-CoV-2 testing that would help prevent further disease spread, protect their employees, and limit potential company liability.

On-site COVID testing restores staff confidence

UPP selected the DxTerity SafeWorkDx™ platform to conduct onsite viral testing of employees. The scalable, easy-to-use platform includes a saliva-based sample collection, 1-day testing turnaround, and a secure online portal for accessing confidential testing results. Bloom was instrumental in developing a process for getting employees back onsite, which included cleaning, changes in scheduling to permit social distancing, and testing of all employees for COVID infections.

A significant consideration during the evaluation of the testing solution was how the employee testing is performed. UPP sought a testing procedure that their employees would quickly and confidently adopt, which could be used periodically for high-confidence monitoring of workplace health and safety.

As opposed to painful nasopharyngeal swabs that require a nurse or doctor to administer, DxTerity's testing platform only requires a quick saliva sample that employees can collect themselves. "It's much easier for our workers to take a self-collected saliva test than to stick one of those swabs way up their nose," commented Robert Bloom, Vice President of UPP. "This test is easy and painless for employees to self-administer."

After saliva collection, tests are rapidly shipped to a testing facility where the employee's results are securely communicated within ~36 hours of sample submission. "We collect samples from employees on Monday morning, ship them to DxTerity that day, and see results reported by Tuesday night," said Bloom.

DxTerity SafeWorkDx incorporates top-of-the line security features, using AES encryption and infosec compliance to ensure the privacy of test results. DxTerity's CLIA laboratory has pending Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. With top-of-the line data security, all employees tested can have the utmost confidence that their results are both secure and accurate. The platform is HIPAA compliant, as only barcoded samples (not patient names) are sent to DxTerity for testing. As a site administrator, Bloom sees

the final testing report, which is the only place that test results are associated with the names of his workers.

"Peace of mind for us and our employees, plus increased productivity"

On April 15, 41 UPP employees came to the employee parking lot to submit saliva samples, which were shipped to DxTerity for testing. The test identified three employees that were positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus who self-quarantined and later tested negative for the virus. "Several of our employees tested positive for the virus, even after 14 days of quarantine," said Bloom. "Seeing previously-exposed people test positive gave us confidence in the results, and we didn't let anyone come back to work until they tested negative for the virus."

Workplace testing continues weekly to catch any potential new infections and prevent community spread between assembly-line workers, and UPP has tests available onsite that employees can submit at-will. They have tested employees following holiday weekends and intend to continue to do this for the foreseeable future.

The ease of use of the platform continues to drive routine testing at UPP. Bloom stated that "testing is voluntary, but it's painless and easy enough that all the employees are doing it." DxTerity's testing platform is easily implemented by senior staff and can be seamlessly scaled to accommodate moderate or large organizations.

"I consider myself very lucky to have access to this test," said Bloom. "All of our employees got an immediate sense of comfort and confidence that we are running a safe organization. Testing at UPP was implemented quickly and can be done inexpensively and frequently enough to keep our employees at work. Since we started testing, we're back at 100% staffing, with only one of our 45 employees choosing to work from home."

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Incorporating DxTerity's SafeWorkDx corporate testing solution and updated company policies enabled UPP employees to return to work with peace of mind and confidence to excel. "We had a large backlog of work, and when we were shut down for a week, it cost us more than we could afford," said Bloom. "Having everybody back at work gave us a real chance to get things back on track."

Read more about UPP's experience with COVID testing in [the Washington Post](#)

Learn more about SafeWorkDx at [DxTerity.com/COVID-19](#)