

The Case for *Virtual* COVID-19 Screening

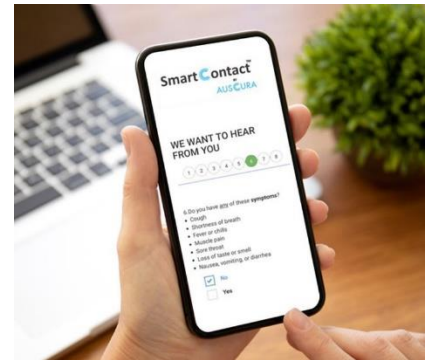
Auscura was founded eight years ago and concentrates on communication automation for various healthcare use cases and the management of sensitive data. We transferred our expertise to develop *virtual* COVID-19 technology.

Companies must implement either *onsite* or *virtual* COVID-19 screening to bring their employees back to the workplace. *Onsite* screening requires a temperature kiosk and a person asking about symptoms located at each entrance. *Virtual* screening expects employees to utilize a conventional thermometer and complete a web-based survey before leaving home. Both options require a database that meets HIPAA privacy standards.

The critical decision point for a company is whether they wish *onsite* or *virtual* screening.

Onsite COVID-19 screening is problematic because ...

- There is a low sensitivity because most employees with advanced COVID-19 have a normal temperature upon arrival to work.
- There is a low specificity for COVID-19 pneumonia in summer since people often arrive to work with higher body surface temperatures.
- It creates a new, unnecessary frontline worker – the screener.
- It results in crowding at the entrance, where some may not yet be wearing masks.
- It creates a false sense of security, which can lead to complacency, and people inside the office should not put their guard down about infection prevention and should follow company rules.
- It breeds unnecessary fear.
- It requires thermal scanners, which cost \$50,000 and are less accurate than a \$50 digital oral thermometer.
- It necessitates onsite screeners that can cost up to \$100/hour.
- It violates federal HIPAA privacy rules because it documents on paper or a spreadsheet if an employee has a fever, COVID-19 symptoms, or recent exposure.



Virtual COVID-19 screening should be leveraged because ...

- Taking temperature at home with a digital oral thermometer is more accurate than infrared forehead thermometers or thermal screening devices.
- It prevents virus spread since risks are identified before others are exposed during the commute or at the workplace.
- It mitigates risk by incorporating a risk waiver and confirmation of understanding and abiding by company infection prevention rules.
- Should an employee not pass the screening; they can be asked to contact their PCP for advice regarding treatment/testing. The company can send a wellbeing check until the employee returns.
- We can incorporate a communication portal so that any questions can be asked and answered.
- Data can be retrieved, and standard reports generated.
- Data is managed in a highly secure, HIPAA-compliant cloud server designed for managing protected health information (PHI).
- System attributes include a polished user interface and intuitive design easily maneuvered by employees and managers.
- Virtual screening preserves employee privacy and dignity.

Virtual screening is safe, inexpensive, and a more straightforward way to meet CDC screening guidelines.