Fever Scanning in the Time of COVID-19
By Mary Haskett, Blink Identity

Fever scanning is one of the tools The World Health Organization recommends to contain viral epidemics. Fever scanning is the mass screening for elevated temperatures in high pedestrian areas such as airports, train stations, factories and other public places. It’s useful, but it’s not infallible. There are many reasons that a person might have an elevated temperature and some people with COVID-19 don’t have fever at all. Still, fever scanning is an easy step to take and will have a real, positive benefit. According to a survey by Dream House Labs, consumers want to see venues integrate long term strategies to reduce the risk of attending live events, such as hand washing or temperature scanning, even after the COVID-19 threat is gone. Checking for fevers in employees and guests at your venue will both help contain COVID-19 or any other illness but it will also reassure a nervous public about the safety of attending live events.

So, what is the best way to do fever scanning at venues? Medical thermometers are inexpensive, accurate, and easy to use. The non-contact versions work well but they do require the operator to get close to the guest and they are slow. Thermometers are currently difficult to find in stores and online, but the supply chain will likely catch up soon. On the other end of the spectrum, there are companies like ICI (https://infraredcameras.com/) who make thermal cameras that are certified for fever detection in groups. These systems are expensive, but they can work well when used with a calibration source. At Blink Identity, we are developing a device aimed at the middle ground. Our goal is to build a device that is fast, inexpensive, and easy to use. We are modelling it on a flashlight – one button turns it on and off. There is no screen, but instead a simple green or yellow light. We have built a prototype and are looking for feedback from people in the live events industry to help shape the final product. Please reach out if you are willing to do a short customer discovery interview or if you are interested in being a beta tester.

A word of caution, there are a lot of people and companies racing to build systems that will address the new demands caused by this pandemic and they are not all equal. A company called Athena Security recently promoted a new product they claimed could “detect 1,000 COVID infections an hour” and their legitimacy has been called into question.

Message from Jeff Davis, Region 6 Director. Please vote!

Hello, Region 6,

These sure are unprecedented times for us! Many of us have venues sitting dark, and others have been asked to provide support in ways we would not have imagined just a month ago. With whatever you are facing in your “new norm” and day-to-day, I hope you, your families and team are well.

Last Friday you should have received an email from IAVM HQ for our officer elections. As often is the case with adopting new technologies, there are occasional hiccups. When the email ballot first went out, there were a couple positions excluded from the voting process. This has since been corrected. If you voted before the changes were made, you can go back in using the link in the original email you received, and vote on the two additional positions.

**Voting for our officers will be open until Friday, April 24. Please take a few minutes to cast your ballot.**

Stay safe. Stay healthy.
Jeff

Jeff Davis
Director, Region 6, Executive Director, College Park Center/Texas Hall/UTATickets at UT Arlington
Chesapeake Energy Arena, SAVOR and Levy Partner During COVID-19 Pandemic to Donate Food

Due to numerous event postponements from the COVID-19 pandemic, Chesapeake Energy Arena with our excellent Food & Beverage partners SAVOR and Levy, were able to donate nearly $10,000 worth of food to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma on March 18. Pallets of buns, meat, produce, dairy products, and more that would have gone unused were donated to our local community.

Wichita Falls MPEC Helps Community In Response To COVID-19

Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Events Center (MPEC) was for fortunate enough to be able to donate 500 lbs. of fresh produce and orange juice to our local Wichita Falls Area Food Bank. MPEC also donated 2,000 items to the Wichita Falls Boys and Girls Club. These items included drinks/sodas, popsicles, and candy!

ACTIVITIES AT CINTERMEX IN THE FACE OF COVID-19 CONTINGENCY

Since March 17, CINTERMEX International Convention and Exhibition Center, together with the organizers, took the decision to reschedule the events to be held in the months of March and April; as well as to limit access to the venue as a means of containment due to the COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting all countries, including Mexico. The main objective is, and always will be, to safeguard the health of co-workers, customers, exhibitors, suppliers, and visitors.

The General Offices staff remains working in Home Office mode during regular hours, while the Operational Areas are operational as required. In CINTERMEX we are convinced that the meeting tourism industry will be a fundamental piece to re-activate the economy in the country; therefore, we join the impulse of campaigns such as #ReagendaNoCanceles (Reschedule, do not cancel your event) and ThisShowWillOpenForBusiness in support of all of us who are dedicated to this industry. We are sharing these messages through social media, newsletters, Email Marketing and our outdoor Macro screen.

In addition, we are equipping our venue with hand sanitizer and health recommendations boards around the building and access points, also we improved the cleaning products to chlorine-based ones (super concentrated), and others. We’ll be ready to open when health authorities give the “all clear”.

Together and taking care of the health and hygiene measures marked by WHO and Nuevo Leon's Department of Health, we will be able to return stronger. #stayhome #healthcomesfirst
Coppell Arts Center Launches ‘Art in Place Coppell’ Art Movement

The Coppell Arts Center, like many centers around the country, has delayed all programming during the COVID-19 pandemic, however that does not mean the creation of Art needs to go dark as well. The Coppell Arts Center has partnered with the Coppell Independent School District, Coppell Creatives, and the Coppell Arts Council to launch an art movement within our community. With residents of Coppell respecting Social Distancing and Shelter in Place orders, many of our neighbors are using this opportunity to get creative! Fantastic work is being shared in different places online, and this creativity inspired the art groups of Coppell to unite and create a virtual exhibit for the community called “Art in Place Coppell.”

We invite community members to share all kinds of visual and performing arts made during this period of Social Distancing and Sheltering in Place due to the COVID-19 pandemic to #ARTinPlaceCoppell on Instagram. We intend to share the community art on a broad platform to show how, in uncertain times, a community can turn to Art and be a voice for exploration and healing. Once the COVID-19 pandemic passes and the Coppell Arts Center opens, curated pieces of Art from this virtual exhibit will be on display at the Arts Center and featured in Coppell Independent School District’s magazine. Until then, follow ARTinPlaceCoppell on Instagram for daily inspiration. For more information, visit coppellartscenter.org.

Pandemic Makes Venues Re-Think Importance of Cleanliness and Sanitation

By Mike Biggs, Jani-King International

Like many commercial cleaning companies today, we are being asked by venues of all types to develop cleaning and disinfecting programs specifically to raise the confidence of guests and fans in this new era of pandemics no longer being a “possibility.”. Many of the practices, such as electrostatic spraying or the use of sustainability products, are things we have been doing for years. The current pandemic crisis just confirms these strategies and hopefully now creates a stronger point of emphasis with GMs and venue operators to apply such practices in their facilities.

In the past, janitorial has often slid down on the list of priorities for venues…good enough was too often “good enough” because of budget constraints or other more pressing building maintenance or growth items. Standards will be higher now, and you’re going to see the profile of housekeeping raised. Fans and guests seeing housekeeping staff armed with disinfectant applicators while wearing identifiable uniforms should be a lot more common as peace of mind is critical. We’d expect to see more budget emphasis placed on going beyond basic cleaning with a value on experience and innovation, something we have certainly focused on as a priority for years.

As venues begin to re-open, it’s a great opportunity for commercial cleaning companies to finally have a platform to show their unique differences from each other, and why the investment in cleaning and disinfecting is so important. We are excited about the challenge and what should be the emergence of a new mindset on the value and importance of cleaning and disinfecting operations within venues and all facility categories.
The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB), in conjunction with Fair Park First and Spectra, distributed boxes of free food to families in need via a drive-through, Mobile Pantry at Fair Park in Dallas on Thursday, April 2. Over 6,300 boxes were distributed in just under 3 hours.

“While COVID-19 has affected us all, it’s great that we’re able to host an event that benefits our immediate neighbors in South Dallas,” said Spectra’s Peter Sullivan, General Manager of Fair Park. “We were thankful for this opportunity to give back to our community and help where we can.”

CARTER BLOODCARE AND DALLAS SUMMER MUSICALS TEAM UP TO #BRAVETHEMOMENT

On Friday March 27, 2020, Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) teamed up with Carter BloodCare to host a one-day blood drive at the Music Hall at Fair Park. Blood donation is essential to the medical community, but due to the recent closures of businesses, churches and universities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been over 400 lost blood drives in North Texas which can impact up to 30,000 patients. The Music Hall at Fair Park allowed for the recommended social distancing between donor beds and in waiting areas, and DSM was grateful for the opportunity to support Carter BloodCare during these uncertain times. As a result, in six short hours our community donated enough blood to save 216 lives!

AND THE BEAT GOES ON ARKANSAS
PRESENTED BY

BENEFITTING HUNGER RELIEF IN ARKANSAS

Simmons Bank Arena was proud to host “And The Beat Goes On Arkansas” – A Live Streaming Event presented by Simmons Bank this past Saturday, April 11th. The event saw country artist and Arkansas’ own Justin Moore being streamed live from an empty Simmons Bank Arena. Joining Justin from remote locations were fellow country artists and Arkansans: Tracy Lawrence, Joe Nichols, Adam Hambrick and Heath Sanders. More than $30,000 was raised in the charitable effort to benefit The Feeding America Food Banks in Arkansas and Hunger Relief Alliance as they work to provide aid to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The video has been viewed over 100,000 times and reached more than 250,000 people. The video is still available for viewing at https://www.facebook.com/simmonsbankarena.

Donations can still be made by texting FEED to 501501 or by visiting https://www.foodbanksofarkansas.org/. The 1-800 number is now closed.

For questions or inquiries, please contact: Jana DeGeorge, Director of Marketing, Simmons Bank Arena at 501-975-9038 or janderson@simmonsbankarena.com.
Thank you newsletter contributors this month!

Lucy Albers – ASM Global OKC Chesapeake Energy Arena/Cox Convention Center
Mike Biggs – Jani-King International
Julian Bowman – Spectra/Fair Park
Jeff Davis – Region 6 Director, College Park Center/Texas Hall/UTA Tickets - The University of Texas at Arlington
Ginene Delcioppo – Coppell Arts Center
Connor Floyd – Wichita Falls MPEC
Mary Haskett – Blink Identity
Wanda Huerta - CINTERMEX International Convention and Exhibition Center
Michael Marion – Simmons Bank Arena

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