

Connections

Covid-19

We are now in the midst of the most unprecedented portion of our lifetime. The world is preparing to do battle with an invisible enemy; Covid-19. Our lives have changed overnight. It does not seem like this "new"

way of life will end soon, and may become the new "normal." As uninviting as this scenario seems, we will all probably have to come to grips with this reality.

However, it is said that problems always create opportunities. Obviously protecting life is everyone's main concern. These new restrictions being imposed and our vigilant adherence to them are a requirement. But the opportunity to improve both our lives and the processes that we were accustomed to is also a reality. Anyone who has ventured to the grocery store, take-out-restaurant, or home improvement store, during this outbreak has seen new procedures implemented. We all now need to wear a mask, and maintain social distancing of 6 feet. This changes all of what we used to consider normal. In order to make these two facets work, we also need to limit the amount of people congregating at a location. Classrooms have become virtual. People who are fortunate enough to retain their jobs, are working remotely.

Technology has stepped up to assist in these areas, but we still need to get food and supplies. In doing this social distancing is a must.

I saw an opportunity to assist this, albeit in a simple way from our friends at Banner Engineering.

"Right now, we are in the middle of what those of us who have deployed in the military call 'the suck.' Welcome to 'the suck,' - But we need you to buckle down."

-Sheriff Tony Thompson

As New England Drives & Controls constantly strives to become a better asset to our customers, our whitepaper series will feature new technologies or helpful insights that may be pertinent to the reader. It is our sincere hope that this information will be beneficial in both relating, and applying content to your industrial needs.

We hope you find this whitepaper series an enjoyable and informative read.

We always welcome your questions and comments.



Using off the shelf Banner components, they have have combined a counter, wireless sensors and wireless stack lights to count people entering a store or other premises, as well as count the amount of people exiting. This allows them to ensure that the amount of people in the store are following the requirements, and to prevent the possibility of social distancing from being adequately followed. The stack light works like a traffic light and controls the flow of people entering the building.

By using an objective counting system, this prevents stress on the employees who must enforce these rules and allows people to orderly maintain proper social distancing. It also allows them to properly focus on their job's main requirement. To better understand this concept, follow the link below on Linked-In from Ryan Treece of Banner Engineering for a video explanation.

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ryantreece_iiot-oee-covid19-activity-6659505448422518784-lfi7

If a system like this is of interest to you, please give us a call. We are glad to help.

-Peter Lavoie (VP Engineering)



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