While Blue Technologies and Blue Technologies Smart Solutions are fully operational during the COVID-19 pandemic, we realize your business may be greatly impacted. If you need any assistance to get your business up and running, whether if you are a customer of ours or not, please email us at:

covid19taskforce@btohio.com

- Be proactive and access your account online by clicking the red Service & Support button in the upper right corner. After making your selection, you will be prompted for your customer number and we will email you a login to place service requests, supply orders, enter your meters and review your invoices.

- Business is temporarily shutdown? Contact us for lease deferral consideration.

- You have current equipment needs for printers, copiers, scanners, wide format: Now is a great time to acquire with our ***90-day lease deferral program for all new transactions.***

KEYS TO KEEPING YOUR BUSINESS RUNNING WITH A REMOTE WORK FORCE

Backbone Technologies

Savvy businesses manage digital devices entrusted to employees using a variety of enabling technologies:

- **VPN**—A virtual private network is the most critical technology of all. It provides a secure communication channel through public Internet connections.

- **VoIP**—Voice over Internet Protocol cuts communication costs and increases team flexibility. With VoIP, employees can access their office phone calls from anywhere, send instant messages, forward calls to mobile phones, teleconference with clients and co-workers, and more.

- **Data Backup/Recovery**—Keeping critical data safe is a challenge. We need to ensure remote workers have access to backup solutions. They should have a secondary backup system as well. Review policies with them to make sure they're backing up.

www.btohio.com

5885 Grant Ave. • Cleveland, Ohio 44105 • 216.271.4800
5701 Mayfair Rd. • North Canton, Ohio 44720 • 330.499.9300
530 Lakeview Plaza Drive, Suite A • Columbus, Ohio 43085 • 614.575.1999

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- **Network Security**—Network security is paramount. Getting hacked can cost you big dollars and create plenty of bad press. Hackers can also seriously hinder efficiency and productivity.

- **Malware Protection**—Another must have. Most PCs come standard with firewall and antivirus protection, but many times companies need more like Webroot. Upgrade to business-efficient security solutions. And stay on top of updates.

- **Collaborative Tech Tools**—These are the key to increasing employee productivity and efficiency. Think apps like SharePoint, Microsoft Teams, and GoToMeeting. Remote workforces are dead in the water without these.

These six enabling technologies are the backbone of a good remote workforce system. Make sure your IT team has expertise in all of them as well as in broadband technology.

Support Technologies

While the above technologies are critical the support technologies below are very important to remote workforces to operate effectively:

- **Cloud Technology**—Cloud optimization is growing more and more critical to today's businesses. Many companies are transitioning to the cloud for easy access outside the office. Compatible mobile apps are a must.

- **Home Office**—Employees working from home need good office technology. Don't skimp on laptops, tablets, and scanner/printers. High quality headset or Earbuds are also crucial

- **Management**—You'll still need feedback and communication tools to manage remote workers. Project management tools, Cloud Based CRMs and reporting tools

Add to these technologies good technical service support and an experienced IT staff. Together, they'll save you time, money, and frustration.

The key is combining the right technologies with the right people.

Together, they'll create a remote workforce that cuts costs, increases productivity, and generates brand-building customer experiences.

Have more to discuss? Contact us today at: covid19taskforce@btohio.com