

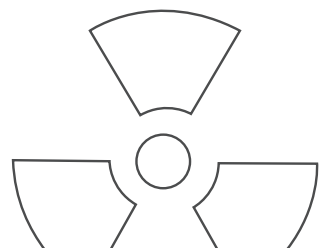


# Implications Of The Covid-19 Pandemic On Nrrc Regulatory Framework

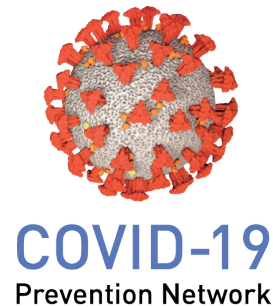
- The NRRC, established in 2018, faced the outbreak of COVID-19 just a year and a half into its operation. This timing meant that the organization was still growing in its operational experience and the development of its expert human resources. Consequently, incorporating the lessons from the pandemic into its regulatory processes for nuclear and radiation activities was a significant challenge.



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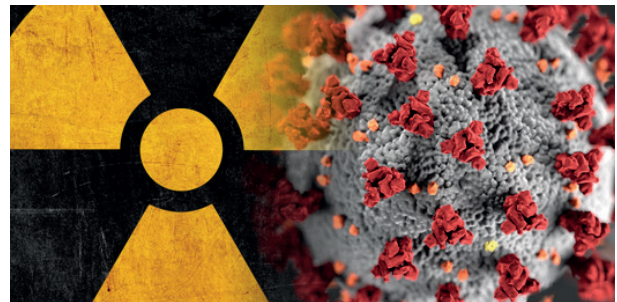


During the pandemic, the Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development released guidelines for remote work to mitigate the virus's spread. These guidelines necessitated institutions to have technical systems to monitor and manage the productivity of employees working remotely. The NRRC, adhering to these guidelines and health directives, enabled staff to return to their offices in a controlled and phased manner, based on the evolving COVID-19 situation.



However, the pandemic significantly impacted the medical sector, where certain practices were under immense pressure, amplifying the challenge of managing radiation health risks alongside the pandemic. The NRRC adapted by establishing virtual procedures, including online meetings and virtual inspections, to maintain its regulatory and oversight functions without exposing staff and radiation workers to undue risk.

The lockdown period offered an opportunity for the NRRC to further develop its regulatory framework and foundational strategy. The effects on regulatory functions were less detrimental than expected. In anticipation of future disruptive events, the NRRC is in the process of implementing ISO 22301, which focuses on business continuity management systems, aiming to ensure service delivery resilience and quick recovery after incidents.



The Risk Emergency and Business Continuity Sector within the NRRC is tasked with managing risks, emergencies, and ensuring business continuity. The pandemic served as a valuable learning experience, emphasizing the importance of a robust safety culture in nuclear and radiation operations to navigate through crises effectively.