

# To work from home or not to work from home? That is the question

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The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) era has ushered in a new look and feel for the workplace. With the fear of infection, of self or loved ones, many people are breathing a sigh of relief with the expansion of permissions to work from home, whereas others are holding their breath in the aftermath of widespread lockdowns and economic uncertainty. In [“Who should work from home during a pandemic? The wage-infection trade-off”](#) (National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 27908, October 2020), authors Sangmin Aum, Sang Yoon (Tim) Lee, and Yongseok Shin explore an optimal policy: “the economic costs of containing a pandemic can be minimized by only sending home those jobs that are highly exposed but easy to perform from home.”