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ST★R Report

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Footprint Center Relies on GBAC STAR Accreditation to Complement its ESG Efforts

Footprint Center, a multi-purpose arena in Phoenix that is home to the NBA's Phoenix Suns, the WBNA's Phoenix Mercury and the Indoor Football League's Arizona Rattlers, and is managed by Suns Legacy Partners LLC, has completed the reaccreditation process for GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation from the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a Division of ISSA. The venue, which also hosts concerts and shows, is a trailblazer in sustainability and has renewed

third-party verification that its cleaning, disinfection and infection-prevention program minimizes risks.

"At Footprint Center, we're setting a new standard for sustainability and view the GBAC STAR program as an extension of our Environmental, Social and Governance pledge," Ralph Marchetta, General Manager, Footprint Center, said. "We are excited to continue welcoming fans, teams, performers and employees to the facility so they can enjoy everything Footprint Center has to offer."

Champions On and Off the Court

The arena is championing cleanliness and safety through GBAC STAR, the gold standard for prepared facilities. The accreditation gives the public confidence that a facility has the proper protocols and training in place



to address biorisks such as COVID-19. Annual reaccreditation drives continuous improvement, as the facility needs to maintain compliance with 20 key program elements.

"Facilities of all types and sizes are renewing their GBAC STAR accreditation because it assures visitors and employees that these environments are clean and healthy," Patricia Olinger, Executive Director, GBAC, said. "Because the program is performance-based, it encourages organizations to do their due diligence regarding biorisk prevention, response and recovery."

In addition, Footprint Center is on a mission to become a carbon-neutral, plastic-free arena, and is developing a living innovation lab to conduct research and share learnings with the community on how to eliminate single-use plastics in the food chain.

Serving All Types

From airports to convention centers to hotels to arenas, nearly 1,000 facilities

around the world have completed the annual reaccreditation process for GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation. The accreditation from GBAC gives employees and visitors of these environments reassurance that the facility has the proper cleaning protocols, disinfection techniques and work practices in place to combat biohazards and infectious diseases.

Facilities of all types and sizes are eligible to participate in the GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation program and are encouraged to pursue annual reaccreditation. The Accreditation Council reviews applications to ensure they align with the 20 GBAC STAR Program Elements, which each have specific performance and guidance criteria. Accredited facilities can then display the GBAC STAR seal to communicate their commitment to cleaning for health and infection-prevention readiness.

To learn more about this process, contact GBAC Sales at <https://gbac.issa.com/contact>. ★

NEWS YOU CAN USE

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GBAC Executive Director Patty Olinger has authored an article for the April/ May edition of "Venue Professional." Olinger discusses hosting safe events during these uncertain times with the help of GBAC STAR-accredited facilities and service providers. <https://bluetoad.com/publication/?i=740238&ver=html5&p=48>.

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BUILDINGS.com features "GBAC Star: Are You Cleaning for Health" in its long list of webinars and podcasts. The BUILDINGS brand has served building owners and facility professionals since 1906. Dr. Gavin Macgregor-Skinner, Senior Director, GBAC, shares his knowledge about what this audience needs to know about cleaning facilities in the age of COVID. Here's the podcast: <https://buildings.com/course/43330/gbac-star-cleaning-health>.

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Preliminary findings from a University of Hong Kong study suggest Omicron may be sticking around and remaining infectious on surfaces longer than other COVID-19 variants. For details, check out "Toronto City News" at <https://toronto-citynews-ca.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/toronto.citynews.ca/2022/03/16/omicron-infectious-surface-covid-variants/amp>.

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As America casts a wary eye on rising cases caused by the BA.2 subvariant in Europe, this key indicator may determine how bad a wave could be in the United States. Read in CNN: <https://apple.news/AtvshslUSRWOoAM6D-LjaDw>.

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According to Sabrina Segal, Risk and Compliance, Egypt County Office, Save the Children, NGOs should think differently about traditional risk management. She says it's not any one tool or report but changing a way of thinking. Read her thoughts: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/smsegal_ngos-riskmanagement-risk-activity-6906894632501022721-FilH.



Predicting COVID's Ups and Downs

It's been said that the best way to predict the weather is to look out the window. That works well if you're deciding to grab an umbrella before you leave for an errand. But this mindset does not help when you are making long-term plans, weather-related or not.

John Cordier, GBAC Advisory Board Member, CEO and co-founder of Epistemix, is in the business of analyzing data and offering predictions. You won't find him on the six o'clock newscast discussing the weather, but he is laser-focused on predicting the peaks and valleys of COVID-19 hospitalizations. His company, Epistemix, uses decades of epidemiological experience, diverse datasets and scientific best-practice to build computational models that forecast the

health impacts of policy interventions. His work guides business owners, event organizers, school districts and state governments across the United States.

Forecasts For Spring and Summer

According to the latest Epistemix forecast (<https://blog.epistemix.com/blog/q2-2022-covid-19-forecast>):

- We are projecting a stretch of low COVID-19 levels through the spring and summer for most locations, with rising infection rates as we enter late summer in southern locations and early fall everywhere else. We expect additional waves in southern cities like Atlanta, Orlando and Nashville around August, with cases starting



Not only does John Cordier enjoy data analysis, he spends time each year as a volunteer delivering public health care in other countries. He and a group of friends visit the same villages every summer to provide services such as OB/GYN, cataract surgeries, physical therapy, health education, general medicine and dispensing eye glasses. In this photo, John shows children from a village outside Riobamba, Ecuador, where their country is in relation to the U.S. and other countries. This is the first time these children have ever seen a globe.

to rise in July before falling in September. For non-southern large cities like New York, Chicago and San Francisco, we are forecasting a very gradual fall wave, with cases slowly increasing through August.

- This forecast suggests that most Americans will experience a low-COVID spring and summer and return to most pre-pandemic activities with optional masking. Then, depending on your region, you should keep a sharp eye on how things evolve toward the end of the summer, and mask for indoor activities if cases increase for two consecutive weeks in your area.

“What we’re seeing from a disease perspective is that — the time of the year, by city — you can see peaks and valleys and look at this from a business continuity perspective for

“When looking at the future of work or the future of attending events, we must consider the framework we’re putting this information into. In schools, for example, school district superintendents and school boards have had to be weather forecasters.”

— **John Cordier,**

GBAC Advisory Board Member, CEO and co-founder of Epistemix

designing the office and events of the future,” Cordier said. “As you’re able to forecast, it maximizes health and minimizes stressors for people. When you’re doing these two things, you’re creating a safe environment and providing trust and assurance for the people gathering in those spaces. It’s an important facet for business owners, school districts and government leaders to consider going forward.”

A Look Ahead For 19 Key Metros

Epistemix’s second-quarter 2022 Forecast displays six-month projections of the COVID-19 pandemic across 19 U.S. cities. These cities include major population centers and important travel hubs, offering a solid portrait of the entire U.S. epidemic. The forecast for each city is calculated by employing historical data such as previous cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Also, part of the equation is the number of partially vaccinated, fully vaccinated and boosted individuals. The timing of these historical infections and vaccinations is important because they determine the level of immunity in each individual and the susceptibility to infection in the overall population at any point in time.

The cities studied in Cordier’s COVID-19 forecasts include Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Sacramento,

San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Cordier has chosen to display hospitalizations in his blog charts rather than cases because he believes hospitalizations are a more robust indicator of the current state of the pandemic. He theorizes that hospitalizations show not only how high a COVID-19 peak will be, but also the relative severity of the current dominant strain. However, he cautions that forecasted peaks in hospitalizations could be lower if a new round of vaccinations is implemented, or that the peaks could be higher if a new viral variant emerges.

“When looking at the future of work or the future of attending events, we must consider the framework we’re putting this information into. In schools, for example, school district superintendents and school boards have had to be weather forecasters,” he said. “They identify that a big storm is coming this week, and they want to put this information out as soon as they have it. But many times that’s the morning of the storm at 4 or 5 a.m. When we’re looking at a disease forecast, these things are more predictable on a longer timescale than the weather, like knowing you should expect snow in winter in Chicago even if you don’t know the exact day the blizzard will hit. Just so, there are clear seasonal patterns for how COVID spreads in specific regions that you can use to plan ahead.” ★



Prepare, Respond, Recover, Be Resilient It's Time for a Shift

At the end of the day, GBAC STAR accreditation is about resilience. It is about the health and well-being of our customers, employees and communities. It is about business continuity. It is about being prepared for whatever is in front of us and what might come next.

Over the last two years, GBAC STAR-accredited facilities and service providers have focused on responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, it's time to shift our focus to ensuring that we are resilient. To be resilient, we must be prepared for a scalable response when needed — regardless of whether it's the COVID-19 pandemic and its many variants, the flu, MRSA, norovirus or any biohazardous infectious



Patricia (Patty) Olinger
Executive Director
GBAC

material we may face. Some have claimed this level of response is just about the current pandemic; they're missing the bigger picture.

LEARNINGS FOR THE FUTURE

What is this organization doing to meet the needs of our GBAC Communities? Here are a few:

- Working on a guideline for the use of GBAC STAR measures and metrics for an organization's ESG (Environment, Social Responsibility and Governance) initiatives.
- Hosting the first GBAC Symposium in Chicago on August 17, 2022, focusing on indoor air quality topics.
- Developing the GBAC Measurable Auditing Toolkit that will measure and document CLEAN. A GBAC Taskforce will roll out this toolkit in late summer/early fall.
- Offering on-site continuous improvement, consulting and coaching programs by GBAC and ISSA.

- Featuring the GBAC 30-minute Infectious Disease Awareness Training in six languages. Many organizations are rolling out this program to their entire workforces.

Your membership in GBAC offers you the opportunity to share ideas and best practices with others. If you have thoughts or improvement suggestions on any of the above topics, please reach out to us. We want to hear from you.

CRITICAL LEARNINGS TO REMEMBER

As we shift to the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, let's not forget all the lessons that we've learned over the last two years to support being resilient.

Infection prevention, hygienic cleaning and disinfection is important to the health and well-being of people and their communities. To that end, GBAC STAR-accredited organizations focus on:

- The air we breathe
- The surfaces we touch
- The water we drink.

Stay strong out there and, as always, encourage your network to look for the STAR. It continues to be the gold standard for prepared facilities worldwide. ★

We Want to Feature Your Organization's GBAC STAR Accreditation Story

GBAC is committed to helping our accredited facilities and service providers achieve success. Tell us your story and we will share it in an upcoming issue of the GBAC STAR Report.

GBAC STAR Report was created to communicate educational opportunities and highlight facilities and service providers as they attain higher protocols to keep spaces clean and safe for occupancy. This newsletter also offers a way to share learnings about an organization's process of accreditation. GBAC STAR™ is the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response and recovery accreditation, and an important indicator of the thoroughness these organizations offer in cleaning, disinfection and prevention.

The process of accreditation can seem to be overwhelming but thousands of companies have eagerly joined the GBAC STAR Family and hundreds have been reaccredited.

The GBAC STAR Report is looking for facilities or service providers that would be willing to share the story of their drive to accreditation or reaccreditation. Did you discover learnings that you would be willing to share with other readers of the GBAC STAR Report to assist them on their journey? Is your organization the first of your industry or group to be accredited and willing to share its discoveries? How has achieving the GBAC STAR impacted the success of your organization during the pandemic?

The GBAC STAR Report has featured the Hard Rock Stadium in

Miami; Hyatt, an international hotel chain; TRAXX, a multi-million mile luxury bus line; and Sonoma Country Day School. We are looking for interesting stories to tell and offer the opportunity to you to be featured.

Interested? Email gbacstar@issa.com to share your organization's story with more than 19,000 of our readers worldwide. ★

Where Do We Stand

GBAC STAR Facility Reaccreditation

GBAC STAR Family Reaccreditation is an annual process that builds on an initial accreditation to ensure those facilities continue to evolve, improve and advance with the performance-based GBAC STAR program elements. More than 4,000 facilities make up the GBAC STAR Family and many are in the process of reaccreditation, while others are initially becoming accredited.

GBAC STAR Family

As of March 15, 2022

75% of facilities committed to reaccreditation

953 facilities reaccredited

To learn more about this process, contact GBAC Sales at <https://gbac.issa.com/contact>.

GBAC[®] tv

Discovering Details on the Stealth Strain

In the latest edition of BioTalk, cases are rapidly growing from a new version of the Omicron variant, and it is getting the attention of scientists, health professionals and the cleaning industry. The BA.2, or "stealth" strain, brings concerns about this genetic mutation and how it may become a larger health issue, especially in certain demographics. In this episode, Patty Olinger, Executive Director, GBAC, and John Cordier, CEO and Co-founder, Epistemix, reveal what communities must know as information emerges on this variant.



BioTalk is a production of GBACtv, a webcast series produced by ISSA Media and the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, and hosted by Jeff Cross, ISSA Media Director. All episodes of BioTalk are available at <https://gbac.issa.com/media/gbactv>. You can read Cordier's blog post that is mentioned in this program at <https://blog.epistemix.com/blog/q2-20>. ★



Complimentary Clings for Accredited Facilities

Looking to promote your GBAC STAR™ Accreditation? GBAC STAR-accredited facilities can now order GBAC STAR seal clings at no cost. These 5-inch-by-5-inch round static clings are easy to apply and easy to remove.

- Clings to any smooth glass surface (best use is on a mirror)

- Back cling
- Non-adhesive

An accredited facility can order up to 100 clings at once. Click here to place your order <https://gbac.issa.com/cling-order-form/>

Your order will be shipped to you for free. ★

Looking Ahead

SAVE THE DATE

Air Symposium
August 17, 2022
Chicago, Illinois

Join us Wednesday, August 17 for the GBAC Air Symposium that will be held at the Chicago Hyatt Regency, a GBAC-accredited facility. This day-long conference features leading scientists, innovations, advancements and leadership in air quality.

According to Michael Diamond, Senior Director, Technology and Programs, GBAC, and organizer of this event, the GBAC Air Symposium is focused on improving the quality of indoor air in non-health care settings such as schools, offices, restaurants and gyms by communicating best practices, advances in innovations, programs and processes. "These improvements can enable facilities to be safer not only in a pandemic but also after the current crisis in behind us," Diamond said.

Featured speakers for the GBAC Air Symposium will include international leadership in air quality and members of the GBAC scientific advisory board.

Attendance is limited, and it is advised to register early for this symposium. Contact Diamond at michaeld@issa.com if you are interested to attend, present and get involved.★



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gbac.org
gbacstar@issa.com
1-800-225-4772 (North America)
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