

# Milwaukee Manufacturer Contact Traces Instantly With PariRange™

To say Milwaukee-based Sellars Absorbent Materials, Inc., has had to pivot because of the COVID pandemic is an understatement. The family-owned company is a leading manufacturer of shop towels, disposable wipers, towel and tissue and absorbents that are made with recycled fibers. Their products can be found in major big box retailers as well as many janitorial/sanitary maintenance, industrial, safety, and specialty distributors in North America and Europe.

When the COVID pandemic hit, Sellars had to quickly adapt to a sharp spike in demand for their products, while at the same time remaining on the forefront of employee health and safety.

In April, employees started wearing masks. Soon after, their temperatures were checked and cell phones cleaned upon arrival for each shift. Then came weekly COVID tests at National Guard sites. Plexiglas dividers were installed. Educational sessions helped employees become more aware of social distancing.

When an asymptomatic employee tested positive for COVID in August, Sellars realized they did not have anything in place that could easily identify close contacts.

Normally they would consider quarantining the entire team the employee worked with. But this employee had worked three 12-hour shifts between taking the COVID test and getting the results, said Linda Swearingen, EHS Manager for Sellars. The only way to understand where close contact happened was to refer to security video.

**“Myself, the plant manager, and the production manager had to review video footage of the employee over three 12-hour shifts in order to document every person he talked to and how long they were in close contact,” Swearingen said. “Let’s just say it was not the best use of our time.”**

Luckily, Sellars was in the process of purchasing and implementing EmbedTek’s proximity monitoring system, PariRange™, when this occurred.

Employees wear the PariRange™ device on a lanyard, in their pocket, or on their belt loop. As they perform their job duties, they receive a vibration alert if they come within 6 feet of another employee wearing the device.

The close contact is tracked on the device with date, duration of contact, and the device that the employee came into contact with.

