

Bob Iger orders Disney employees back to the office four days a week

The work-from-home era is over at Walt Disney Co.

Chief Executive Bob Iger has ordered Disney employees to return to the office four days a week — Monday through Thursday — starting March 1, according to a Monday email to staff viewed by The Times.

5 Iger, who returned to the CEO role less than two months ago, explained the change as a way to encourage in-person collaboration in service of creativity at the Burbank-based company. “As you’ve heard me say many times, creativity is the heart and soul of who we are and what we do at Disney,” Iger said in the message. “And in a creative business like ours, nothing can replace the ability to connect, observe and create with peers that comes from being physically together, nor the
10 opportunity to grow professionally by learning from leaders and mentors. It is my belief that working together more in-person will benefit the company’s creativity, culture and our employees’ careers.”

Corporate leaders have been grappling with how to manage employees’ return to offices after many established flexible, hybrid schedules during the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed them to work from anywhere, saving money and time from long commutes. Many of the biggest employers in the
15 Los Angeles area are focused on technology, entertainment and media, and view their company culture as a key to recruiting and retaining top talent.

Companies have adopted widely varying policies during the last three years in order to balance their own needs with employee demand for flexibility as hybrid schedules became more firmly accepted. Peloton Interactive called employees back Tuesday through Thursday, while Apple brought staffers
20 back in on Tuesdays, Thursdays and an additional day determined by individual teams.

Adapted from Ryan Faughnder, *latimes.com*, Jan. 9, 2023