

FULL TITLE: Truck drivers must rework delivery practices amidst public health threats

DISRUPTION SCENARIO

[Moose Jaw, 2021]

It was 6 am, and Tony pulled over to the side of the road. He drove all night, transporting new vaccines and medical supplies to combat the pandemic. Tony still had 12 hours left on his route. He needed to rest.

“Hey, boss. You want me to take over for a bit?” asked Tony’s co-driver, Mike. Tony nodded.

Tony usually drove his routes alone, but desperate times called for desperate measures. Mike was riding with him now. The only benefit was that the roads were empty as people stayed in their homes. Still, the long hours and the pressure associated with their "essential work" status put a toll on their bodies. At least they could talk to each other.

WORKFORCE IMPACT

A public health threat like a virus pandemic throws people out of work and causes businesses to shut down as everyone's focus shifts to curbing infection rates. As a result, governments begin prioritizing essential services, including trucking and logistics, as they become critical in delivering medical necessities to hospitals and other health care facilities. Truck drivers may need to work longer hours as the demand grows dire. Logistics companies might need to rework their delivery practices for when their trucks pull up to hospitals to ensure safe and sanitary conditions. Whatever the change, it could have a lasting impact on the logistics industry once public health threats decrease in severity.

Footnote: Robert Hutton, et al., “U.K. warns companies that 20% of workforce could be out as coronavirus cases rise,” *Fortune*, March 3, 2020,

<https://fortune.com/2020/03/03/u-k-warns-companies-that-20-percent-of-workforce-could-be-out-as-coronavirus-cases-rise/>