

White Paper Compact



Supply Chain Management Corona and Logistics – why you must act now!

White Paper compact
Miebach Consulting
March 2020

Authors:



Alex Waterinckx
waterinckx@miebach.com



Dirk Friebe
friebe@miebach.com

Corona and Logistics – why you must act now!

You are a manager or business leader in the field of supply chain and logistics. You have already experienced the first effects of the Corona-outbreak such as

- Delays in shipments and longer inbound lead times
- Cancelled shipments of goods that are sourced from heavily impacted areas
- Additional paperwork to document the safety of your goods for certain export destinations
- Increased demand for certain goods triggered by panic buying

But that is only the beginning

- It will also come to your work-floor.
- It will also affect your people.

With everything you have been reading, you are wondering which decisions and actions you need to take. We will make a simple and clear recommendation, based on the latest available scientific data.

For more background information, we refer to the very clear article of Tomas Pueyo that has been read and shared over 2 million times and has been translated in more than 10 languages. [You will find it here.](#)

A summary of the current consensus:

- The coronavirus is coming to you with exponential speed: first gradually, then suddenly.
- When it does, your daily operations will be severely impacted.
- It's a matter of days. Maybe a week or two.

As a business leader, you are in a position to take the right action now.

What can you do?

- Install measures of containment to isolate your logistics and warehouse operations as much as possible from this external threat.
- Install measures of strict social distancing to prevent the disease from spreading among your workforce in case someone is unknowingly infected.

When do you have to take action?

- Today.
- Not tomorrow. Now.

This is important for yourself, your workforce, your families and your local community. It is important for our healthcare system that we delay the ongoing outbreak as much as possible. There is a consensus that the impact and even the mortality rate can be significantly reduced when we take the right action now. This is an exponential threat. Every day counts.

So, this is a call for action. There are simple measures that will make a life-saving impact. The earlier you impose heavy measures, the less time you need to keep them, the easier and quicker it will be to recover to steady operations.

The Miebach team wishes you all the best and a clear mind for your decision-taking in these challenging times!

Corona Facts:

- The coronavirus is coming to you with exponential speed: first gradually, then suddenly.
- When it does, your daily operations will be severely impacted.
- It's a matter of days. Maybe a week or two.

What can you do?

-  Install measures of containment to isolate your logistics and warehouse operations as much as possible from this external threat.
-  Install measures of strict social distancing to prevent the disease from spreading among your workforce in case someone is unknowingly infected.

In some more detail – what we advise you to do



Install measures of containment to isolate your logistics and warehouse operations as much as possible from this external threat.

- Keep as many people home as much as possible, starting now.
- Your administrative workforce must be put on home office whenever and wherever possible.
- For all people that still need to come to the site: install sanitation booths with hand-disinfection at the usual points such as entrance, sanitary and lunch areas.
- All staff meetings, trainings and gatherings should be postponed or made virtual over online conference calls.
- If you work in shift regimes --> do not mix the composition of your teams anymore.
- Keep a shift in compulsory preventive quarantine if that is possible. This team can come in, whenever an infection has been identified in another shift team. That will ensure business continuity



Install measures of strict social distancing to prevent the disease from spreading among your workforce in case someone is unknowingly infected.

- Prevent access to your facilities for any visitors or contractors for non-critical interventions.
- Install temporary measures and procedures in your operations to eliminate as much as possible interpersonal contact in a logistics and warehouse context. For this, you will have to redesign the normal way of working as well as the allocation of tasks and activities to individual workers. The resulting processes will not be optimized for throughput – but that should not be your first concern now.
- Cluster your logistics and warehousing processes to enable social distancing of workers. For instance: restrict the movement of workers within specific areas and zones of the site. For this, you may have to cross-train a part of the workforce. If so, do that over an online platform.
- Prevent situations where your people come together in groups, such as at start and finish of shifts and lunchtime. For instance, install floating arrival and break times. Ask your employees to keep sufficient distance at the smoking booths.
- Remind everyone on the workfloor where they can find the standard operating procedures and process documentation.
- Remind everyone of the alternative decision-chains and delegation procedures in case of a rupture in the chain of command.

The above measures are not meant as an exhaustive list, but rather as inspiration for the simple and practical things you can do – starting now – to make a positive contribution.

And at the same time, they will help you to secure your business continuity.

Miebach Consultants have been successfully developing supply chains for 47 years. Contact us without any obligation if you would like to discuss your current challenges with competent and experienced partners.

