

Delivery of COVID vaccine needs 8,000 jumbo jets

12th August, 2020



Whenever scientists create a vaccine for COVID-19, governments worldwide will be scrambling for cargo aircraft. Distributing the vaccine will be one of the biggest logistical operations ever. Aviation experts have

forecast that transporting the vaccine across the globe will require around 8,000 747 freight planes. This is sufficient to ship 7.8 billion doses of any vaccine - one dose for everyone on Earth. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has warned governments they must start planning for the "mission of the century". It said: "Even if we assume that half the needed vaccines can be transported by land, the air cargo industry will still face its largest single transport challenge ever."

IATA has warned governments that many obstacles must be overcome to ensure the effective distribution of a vaccine. One critical element of this is the creation of temperature-controlled cargo hubs and warehouses. It is essential the vaccine be kept at the same temperature throughout its journey. This would require extensive training of staff worldwide, who must quickly become expert in safely handling and moving the vaccine. IATA said a further challenge would be security and cross-border controls. It said: "Vaccines will be highly valuable commodities. Arrangements must be in place to ensure that shipments remain secure from tampering and theft."

Sources:
airlineratings.com / simpleflying.com / gulfnews.com

Writing

All governments must get hundreds of airplanes ready to move the vaccine. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / vaccine / cargo / aircraft / aviation / dose / transport / mission / century / obstacles / distribution / critical / warehouse / journey / training / worldwide / theft

True / False

- a) Governments do not have enough planes to distribute a COVID vaccine. T / F
- b) The world needs 8,000 777 jumbo jets to distribute the vaccine. T / F
- c) A transport group called delivering a vaccine the mission of the decade. T / F
- d) Transporting a vaccine by air will be a challenge if half is moved by road. T / F
- e) There are very few obstacles in transporting the vaccine. T / F
- f) The vaccine must be kept at the correct temperature while in flight. T / F
- g) Staff need to be experts in handling the vaccine. T / F
- h) Authorities are worried about vaccine theft. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. scrambling | a. measure |
| 2. forecast | b. interfering |
| 3. dose | c. in history |
| 4. assume | d. products |
| 5. ever | e. specialist |
| 6. obstacles | f. presume |
| 7. essential | g. predicted |
| 8. expert | h. struggling |
| 9. commodities | i. crucial |
| 10. tampering | j. hurdles |

Discussion – Student A

- a) When do you think scientists will create a vaccine?
- b) Would you have the vaccine?
- c) Why won't anti-vaxxers have the vaccine?
- d) What do you think of the logistics of distributing the vaccine worldwide?
- e) What is your government doing about COVID-19?
- f) What was the 'mission of the century' before this vaccine?
- g) What was the mission of the twentieth century?
- h) What is the best way to distribute the vaccine to every person on Earth?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. one of the biggest logistical | a. overcome |
| 2. freight | b. of the century |
| 3. one dose | c. and warehouses |
| 4. planning for the mission | d. controls |
| 5. face its largest single transport | e. operations ever |
| 6. many obstacles must be | f. remain secure |
| 7. temperature-controlled cargo hubs | g. planes |
| 8. kept at the same temperature | h. challenge ever |
| 9. cross-border | i. throughout its journey |
| 10. ensure that shipments | j. for everyone on Earth |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What obstacles are there in distributing the vaccine?
- Who should get the vaccine first?
- How will life in your country change if there is a vaccine?
- Would you buy a COVID vaccine online?
- What happens if we cannot find a vaccine?
- How much vaccine theft do you think there will be?
- What questions would you like to ask the aviation experts?

Spelling

- acrimglnsb for cargo aircraft
- one of the biggest stgaliolc operations
- avnatiio experts
- 747 giretfh planes
- 7.8 billion seods of any vaccine
- Even if we asmsue that
- many cbetosals must be overcome
- the efceiftve distribution of a vaccine
- remuprtatee-controlled cargo hubs
- tvesxeeni training of staff
- highly valuable cidotoesimm
- secure from neatmpigr and theft

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. g	3. a	4. f	5. c
6. j	7. i	8. e	9. d	10. b

Role Play

Role A – A COVID-19 Cure

You think a COVID-19 cure is the most important mission of this century. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their missions. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): landing on Mars, an anti-ageing cream or 1,000-hour battery life.

Role B – Landing on Mars

You think landing on Mars is the most important mission of this century. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their missions. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a COVID-19 cure, an anti-ageing cream or 1,000-hour battery life.

Role C – An Anti-Ageing Cream

You think an anti-ageing cream is the most important mission of this century. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their missions. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): landing on Mars, a COVID-19 cure or 1,000-hour battery life.

Role D – 1,000-Hour Battery Life

You think 1,000-hour battery life is the most important mission of this century. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their missions. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): landing on Mars, an anti-ageing cream or a COVID-19 cure.

Speaking – Top Mission

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important missions for the 21st century at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • A COVID-19 cure | • A carbon neutral world |
| • Landing on Mars | • A nuclear free world |
| • An end to war | • 1,000 hour battery life |
| • Free global wifi | • Anti-ageing creams |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.