

## **Life After Covid-19 Pandemic**

Undoubtedly, the Covid-19 pandemic has left shattering effects and changed life dramatically as we know it for everyone. It is the biggest crisis many countries have faced in peacetime, so the response has been unlike anything most of us have ever experienced. The emergence of this virus resulted in the shutdown of economic activities and the restriction of movement worldwide.

With a surge in cases and no effective treatment or vaccine available, one cannot help but imagine if changes like- working from home, hyper attention to surface disinfection, temperature checks, hand scrubbing, maintaining social distance, and wearing a mask will be the new normal.

Life after COVID-19 will be different from what we have always known. Here are some of the changes we can expect:

### **Working life after corona**

You would agree with me that COVID-19 has brought unprecedented human and humanitarian changes, including the way we work. Many companies worldwide have risen to the occasion, acting swiftly to safeguard employees and adopt a new way of working.

Before the pandemic, the office was perceived as a place critical to productivity, culture, and talent, so companies competed for office space in major urban centers around the world. The pandemic, however, has forced the adoption of new ways of working. For example, Facebook is extending its work from home policy until July 2021—or for an extended period.

Companies are also rethinking how to provide new benefits to their remote employees since some of the old incentives, like free cafeteria food onsite, can't work anymore. Instead, remote employees may need better laptops and monitors, more reliable internet connections, and equipment for audio and visual live streaming.

Admittedly, the work-from-home trend is not only beneficial for companies but also for employees. Companies will save money as they cut expenses on office lease, access new pools of talent with fewer geographical constraints, adopt innovative processes to increase productivity, and create an even better culture.

Employees benefit from staying at home to attend to their children, especially as schooling is still up in the air. The climate improves with fewer commuters, and the quality of life is dramatically enhanced, as people will find more productive ways to spend hours they would have spent on stressful drives, bus, or train rides back and forth to the workplace.

Ultimately, no one knows exactly what the office's future will look like post-pandemic, but the recent trend shows that our shift to working from home won't be temporary. The tech sector is taking the lead on these changes and shaping the future's standard for a post-pandemic office.

### **Healthcare**

Many sectors are facing fundamental changes in how things are done in the post-pandemic world, and healthcare is no exception. Technological enablement, digitization, and automation

are also affecting the healthcare sector in significant ways, and these changes will likely accelerate in the years to come.

During the pandemic, patients, doctors, and home care service providers turned to the use of telemedicine to reduce the risk of exposure. The experience during the pandemic has helped discover that virtual consultations are effective. Soon, radiologists will be able to evaluate MRI images from home so a patient can get the opinion of an expert without traveling as online consultations is witnessing a surge in usage.

Smart hospitals are becoming a thing. Smart hospitals use innovative technologies to improve care quality and patient experience while reducing costs.

The adoption of digitally enabled tools for diagnosis, treatment, and management will surge as many people conclude that a lot more can be done online than we thought.

### **Education**

Instead of cheery interactions and in-classroom learning, educational institutions worldwide are forced to shut down and shift to online learning programs. Teachers and schools are compelled to embrace innovation and shift to online learning to help students complete their school year. As digital learning has taken a new shape, we can expect new learning devices that are safer for children from technology giants. This crisis has triggered an online boom for the education industry. Developing customized education apps are an opportunity for the masses.

### **Traveling After Corona**

With fear and uncertainty hanging over traveling, no one knows how quickly the travel will recover. One thing is sure until there is a vaccine, there will be more canceled vacation, business trips, weekend getaways, and family reunions. However, the post-pandemic world will see a boom in domestic travel.

Companies in the traveling sector, which were majorly hit by the virus, must optimize their operations to cut costs, increase efficiency, and offer better customer services.

### **Retail and Hospitality After Corona Virus**

The preference for dining in spending has dropped and an increase in grocery shopping and purchases of ready-made food in grocery stores, which consumers tend to prefer more than meal delivery from restaurants.

Post pandemic, small gatherings with friends at home will increase, with people choosing to cook their food and prioritize close friends and loved ones over large gatherings. Restaurants globally are digitizing their offering to keep customers engaged and offer delivery service meal kits and online cooking classes.

### **Social Interactions After Coronavirus**

The coronavirus pandemic has affected our daily life and is changing how we interact with loved ones, colleagues, and strangers. Even for the most understanding and supportive of the lockdown, being separated from friends and family has been one of the hardest parts.

Even though we are now permitted to see family and friends (provided it's no more than six people and is outside), we still can't shake, hug, kiss, or be closer than two meters to our loved ones. We all social beings and therefore need to have face-to-face interactions to nurture our

development and wellbeing. This is not going to change, no matter what. However, we might focus more on smaller get-togethers and spend time with those we care about after the pandemic.

If a vaccine or cure is discovered, people will most likely resume shaking hands. If the virus remains without a cure, people will be less likely to engage in these behaviors. Over time, we could see a shift in the social norms, where hugs and handshakes were all rescinded from our list of daily privileges.

### **Ecommerce**

Not surprisingly, the pandemic has compelled consumers to re-examine their shopping habits. Several people have become comfortable with online shopping, and chances are there this trend will continue post-COVID.

Ordering online for things people never considered before has become the new norm for millions of people. Also, the downloads of shopping apps have quadrupled in recent times.

This is a clear indication; online shopping is here to stay and will outlast the pandemic.

### **Employment**

One big problem, coming out of the pandemic, is going to be the tens of millions of people without work around the world. The highest unemployment rate higher than the Great Depression is arguably the biggest threat to a robust recovery from the pandemic. Certainly, sectors will face consolidation, new businesses will be created, and employees will be expected to develop new skills.

Also, rehiring is expected to increase drastically.

### **Entertainment**

It's going to be hard to convince people to go back to events with tens of thousands of people simply for entertainment or recreational purposes. Clusters of people at smaller gatherings are what we will see. Until sets can be made safe, Scripted TV shows will remain on hold. When they come back, movie theaters are likely to find patrons seated apart and the same film on multiple screens.

There has been a surge in movie streaming on Netflix, which could spell curtains for the long-declining theatrical movie business. Big concerts may become a thing of the past until there is an effective global vaccine. People are turning towards the natural world, exploring parks, and taking up new hobbies such as running and cycling.

Conclusively, we may not go back to how things were; the world will recover with time. To survive the post COVID era, there must be an embrace of digital transformation.