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Contactless operations: Creating safer, more distinctive experiences

Improving and enabling human-oriented contactless service and operations in response to COVID-19

June 2020



Context and how to use this document

Contactless service and operations was developed to provide a framework for reevaluating an organization's key customer and employee journeys and interactions in light of COVID-19. It focuses on making those journeys and interactions not just safer but better.

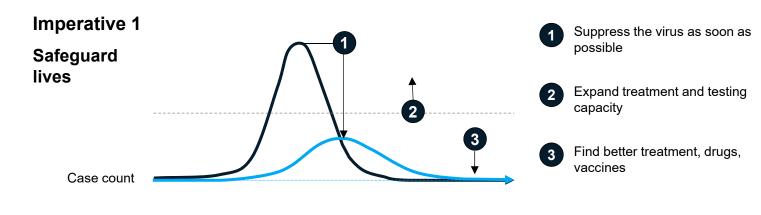
The goal of the **IDEA framework** is to help organizations reimagine mission-critical priorities, investments, and operations while providing the "human" elements related to service.

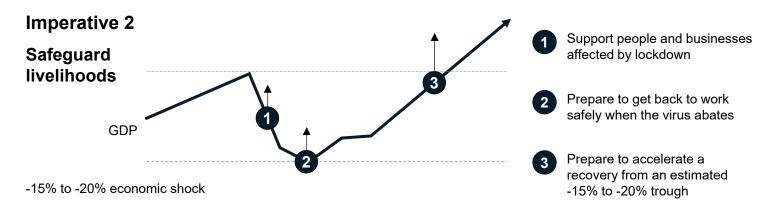
Organizations should follow local regulations and country-specific circumstances before implementation of specific interventions.

This content represents insights by McKinsey's operations and design practice and is provided "as is" solely for informational purposes. It is not intended to be and does not constitute legal or safety advice. Organizations should consider all applicable laws, standards, and country-specific circumstances before adopting any measures. Organizations should engage their own legal counsel and safety experts to ensure compliance.

Businesses are rethinking services to solve for physical and psychological safety while managing business resilience

The imperative of our times: Safeguard both lives and livelihoods throughout the phases of the COVID-19 outbreak







Length of the pandemic and its ultimate impact are unknown; the disruption of recurring "pauses" may happen

Customer hesitation and shifting expectations

Psychological readiness or willingness to return to "normal" behaviors may not align with reopening timelines

Shifting landscape and regulatory issues

Companies may see temporary as well as permanent changes to industry, and the key elements for reopening (eg, tracking and tracing programs) aren't yet defined

Evolving competitive landscape

Changing players, consolidation, and evolving brand positioning will demand that companies be agile

Focus on creating distinctive value

Create a safer environment while continuing to create value through new experiences

The IDEA framework provides a process that can help identify human-centered solutions for evolving business scenarios









Identify interactions & areas of concern

Identify the types of work environment relevant to the business

Identify types of in-person interactions for priority journeys within three main buckets:

- Employee to employee
- Employee to customer
- Customer to customer

Diagnose & prioritize areas of concern

Prioritize areas of concern using multiple lenses:

- Type of interactions
- Evolution of customer and employee experience
- Implications on operations and cost

Develop & Execute solutions

Develop and roadmap solutions across three horizons:

- Immediate needs to continue or re-start critical operations
- Re-prioritizing and accelerating key initiatives
- Investment in distinctive longterm solutions

Adapt & sustain

Operationalize solutions across the organization, iterating and adjusting to meet the needs of the evolving situation

Empower teams to stay ahead of emerging situations and bring learning back to the organization

Identify interactions & areas of concern



Companies can **determine critical journeys** across the business and map the **areas of concern** associated with the following types of **interactions**:





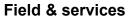
Employee to customer



Customer to customer

These interactions should cover **all relevant work environments** within the business and their associated physical **spaces and surfaces**

Manufacturing & distribution



Office

Retail & food

Travel & hospitality











Concerns can be identified across all work environments relevant to the organization

Key interactions







Sample industries

Manufacturing & distribution ("inside work"—plants and



Manufacturing industries, logistics, any business with a distribution center



Environment examples

Field & services ("outside work"—field service forces. logistics, O&G, etc)

warehouses)





Agriculture, construction, freight, field/remote services



Office (shared indoor work spaces without physical work)





All organizations with an office, education, public services



Retail & food (customerfacing work with shorter-term exposure or larger spaces)







Grocery stores, restaurants, non-grocery retail



Travel & hospitality (customer-facing work with longer-term exposure in enclosed spaces)







Hotel chains, cruise ships, airlines, buses



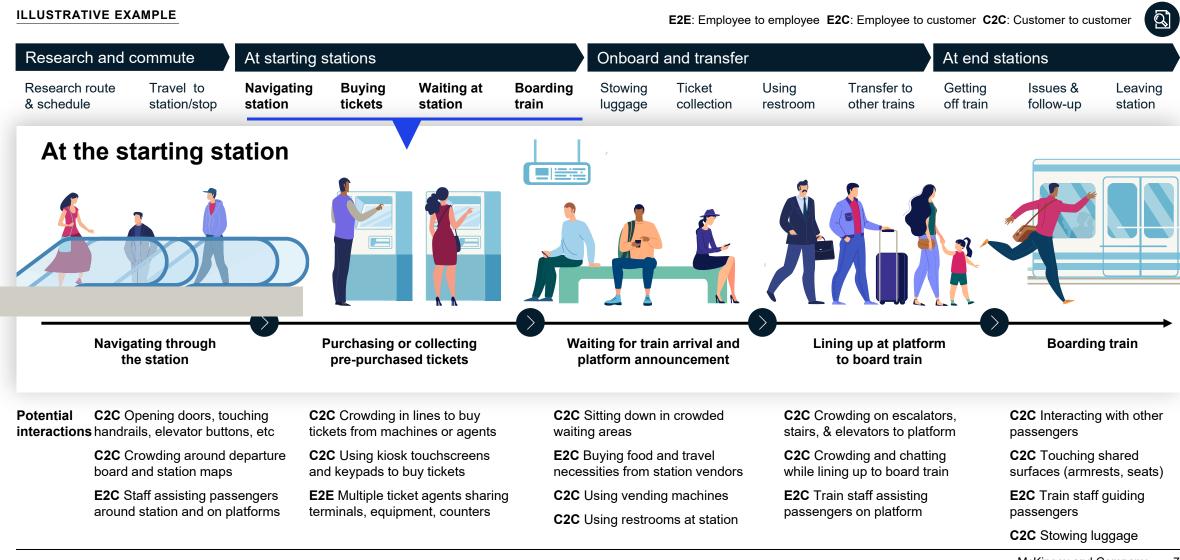
Within each environment. an assessment can be completed across journeys focusing on the key interactions, including the following:

- Transfer of goods
- Services
- Internal tasks/processes
- Spaces and Surfaces

Identification of areas to explore can also consider elements of the unique business and health context, including the following:

- Local prevalence of the virus
- Local regulations

Identify interactions & areas of concern: Example



Mapping the customer and employee journeys in each environment can help identify the areas of concern across interactions

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE



Examples of safety concerns in each interaction type



Goods transfer





Internal tasks/processes



In a distribution center, goods may be transferred from person to person (ie, from order picking to packing); may involve close proximity and touching the same goods.

Two field service technicians drive in the same truck to a customer site; may involve touching the same surfaces and breathing the same air.

An employee goes to the IT support desk for help with a computer malfunction, and the two employees may stand in close proximity and touch the same devices.

Interaction types



Employee to customer

Purchasing a garden hose in a hardware store may involve a customer and an employee in close proximity and touching the same bags and cash.

A field service technician servicing a piece of equipment (eg, gas turbine, airplane) may come into contact with the customer to understand the problem and may share tools with other employees.

A package delivery employee needs to get a delivery confirmation signature, requiring both employee and customer to touch the same scanner or iPad



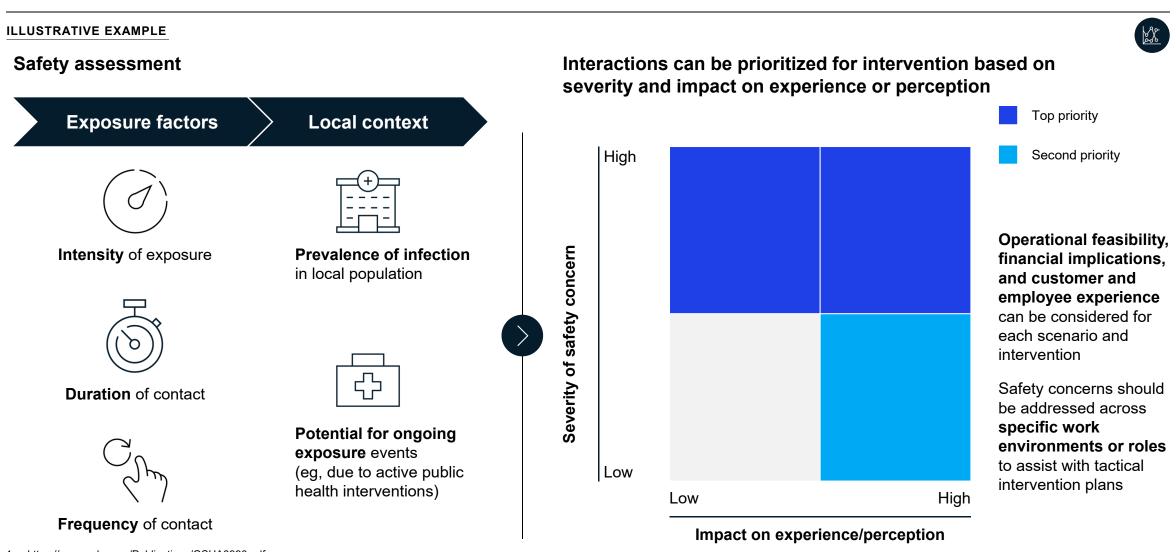
Customer to customer

Two customers may meet in person for a consumer marketplace purchase, which may lead to close proximity and touching the same products.

Multiple patients may be sharing the waiting room of a doctor's office, which may lead to close proximity and touching of communal objects, such as furniture, door handles, or magazines.

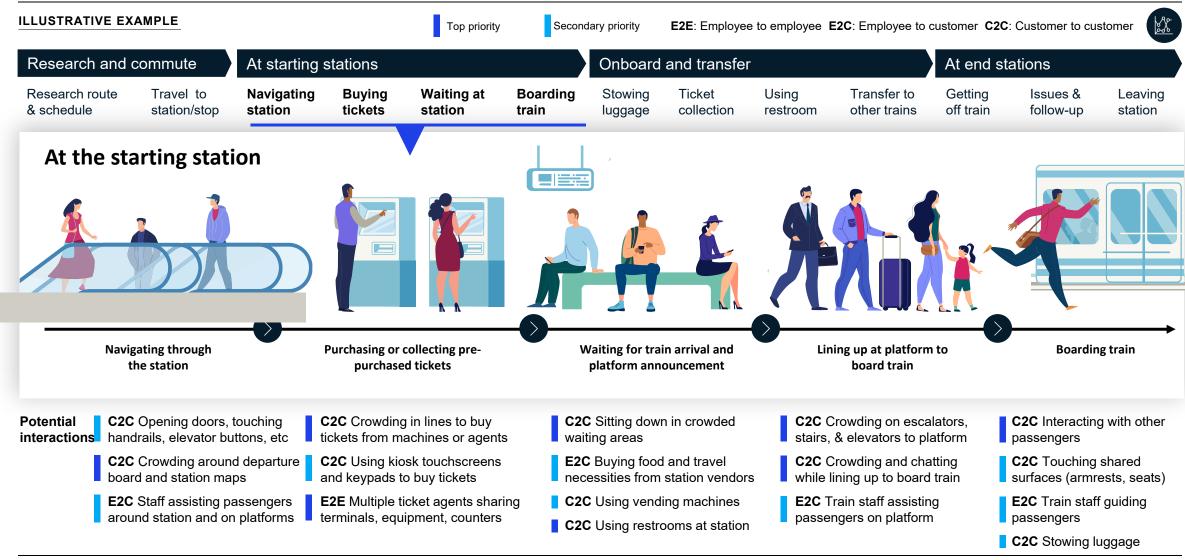
Customers may use the same working surface to complete forms in a bank or to ship packages, which may lead to close proximity and touching the same surfaces and pens.

Diagnose and prioritize: Interactions can be prioritized for intervention considering safety concerns and impact on experience



^{1.} https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

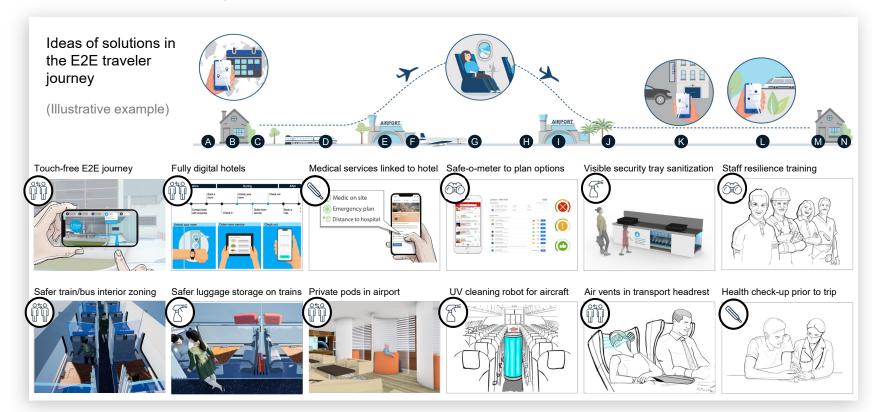
Diagnose and prioritize areas of concern: Example



Develop and execute solutions

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

Companies can design solutions for the prioritized **safety concerns** that can appropriately address and mitigate those concerns as well as improve the overall customer and employee experience.





The majority of safety concerns can be mitigated by making changes across five potential categories of interventions



New offers & services



Policies



Processes



Digitization



Protect individuals (eg training, PPE)

Develop and execute: Companies can consider solutions that deliver differentiated customer and employee experiences

NOT EXHAUSTIVE

Safety requirements

Value creating



Table stakes solutions Meet baseline safety and public health requirements

Focused on functional measures to keep employees and customers safer and to be in compliance

Opportunities to differentiate

Elevated protocols to reassure customers and employees

Recognized for going beyond the basic requirements

Example: Push notification of room cleaning

Distinctive interventions

Keep the human element pervasive and address COVID-19-related and pre-COVID-19 pain points

Recognized as an experience leader

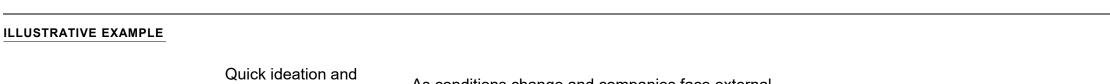
Example: Ability to order room service via app with contact-free delivery

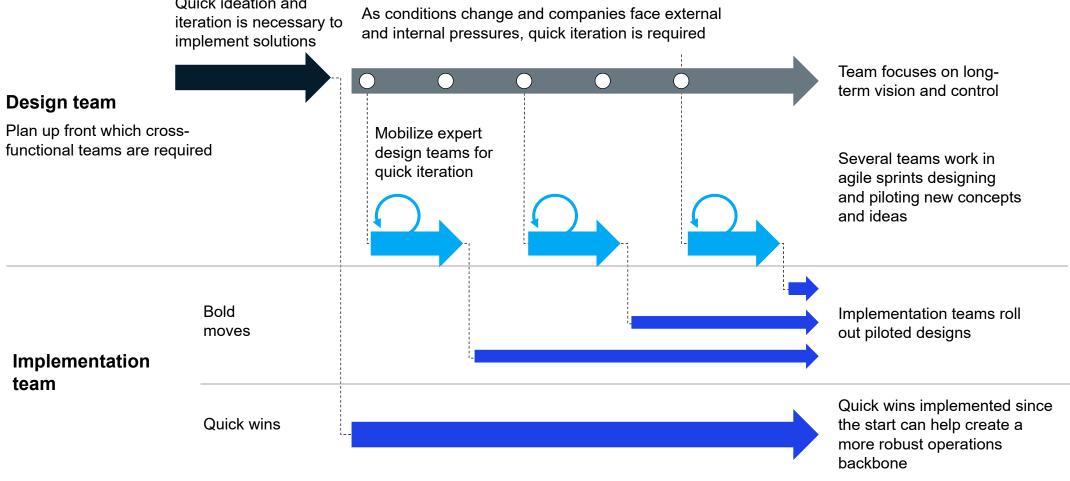
Decisions on the level of innovation to pursue may depend on a company's market and brand aspirations across offerings

Many companies may consider using early innovations as an opportunity to stay ahead of the curve and redesign experiences to be not just safer but better

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Adapt and sustain: Moving to 'reimagining' and deploying solutions will likely require an agile 'test and learn' methodology





Questions?

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