



**Vaccine Delivery – Massive Mission
The Race to Get a Vaccine Delivered**

NBC Nightly News

June 13, 2020

Reporter Kevin Tibbles

NBC News Weekend Anchor, Jose Diaz-Balart:

And now to a massive mission an inside look on what it is going to take to get a billion COVID-19 vaccines from drug making factories to your doctor's office, the health of so many Americans depends on them doing it right. Kevin Tibbles reports.

Kevin Tibbles, NBC Reporter:

A warehouse on wings, Cargolux flight 7004, a giant 747 lumbers into Chicago's O'Hare Airport following an over the pole flight from Europe. The ground crew has just four hours to empty this whale of an aircraft and reload it.

Chris Gonsowski, Vice President, DHL Global Forwarding U.S. Central Region:

Especially if you have temperature control products you need to move the product as quickly as possible.

Kevin Tibbles:

And it is this same system we will count on to supply the world with any future Covid vaccine. The logistics of delivering it to your corner Pharmacy are daunting. Everyone including myself has their temperature taken.

You need a temperature check to enter DHL's massive 400,000 square foot airport warehouse which buzzes 24/7.

Warehouse Lift Driver:

(Driving through the warehouse) We have different zones, different temperature zones for pharmaceuticals.

Kevin Tibbles:

Most vaccines require refrigeration to maintain their integrity says Ben Hubbard whose company monitors vaccine safety.

Ben Hubbard, CEO and Co-Founder, Parsyl:

And if there is a break in what they call the cold chain that vaccine can lose its potency and really its life saving potential.

Kevin Tibbles:

It is a lot colder in here. Especially designed containers can be set to maintain colder temperatures during the flight. Extremely cold, really cold. Pharma needs extreme cold like minus 50-degree cold containers which are also packed with dry ice.

Tibbles to Gonsowski:

Should we be surprised if so many of our drugs are coming from overseas?

Chris Gonsowski:

We are a globalized civilization.

Kevin Tibbles:

Then the race against the clock begins with product safety being the number one concern. When there is a vaccine it will take some 8,000 fully loaded 747 cargo planes to deliver one billion doses to the US market.

Chris Gonsowski:

Hopefully from the time it leaves the manufacturer and the time it gets to the final distribution center no more than two to three days.

Kevin Tibbles:

From the other side of the world.

Chris Gonsowski:

Correct.

Kevin Tibbles:

As the world watches, waits and prays for a solution to our COVID crisis. It will take a lot more than just medicine to deliver a cure.

Kevin Tibbles NBC News Chicago