

The necessary shift to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that many supply chain employees do not need to be in the office full-time.

At the beginning of the pandemic, 99 percent of supply chain organizations allowed employees in suitable roles to work remotely.

As organizations settle into the new normal:





81%

of supply chain employees want to work a combination of at home and on-site. of cross-industry employees are satisfied/very satisfied with virtual collaboration at their companies. of supply chain professionals believe their organizations will allow supply chain employees to continue working remotely.

Acknowledge Challenges

Remote work is not without its challenges. Two of the top challenges to working remotely for supply chain professionals are:



Feelings of social isolation or loneliness

Blurred lines between work and professional life/increased demands for availability and responsiveness

Create Community

To address employee isolation and maintain a sense of community, organizations have created virtual spaces for groups and other relevant information:



Spaces where employees can join groups with similar interests, such as cooking or parenting. Connections made in these groups can then be extended to improve work relationships.



Spaces with practical advice on working from home and established norms that can help employees maintain boundaries between work and personal life.



Spaces with tutorials on new or changing virtual tools to support employees who face a learning curve.

To ensure long-term success for remote work, organizations should create a roadmap of goals for virtual collaboration. Leaders should also be honest about their challenges and mistakes to create a culture in which employees feel free to ask questions and take risks.