

GROCERIES: IN A PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has changed the way many grocery stores operate. People who previously were aiming for sustainable futures no longer could use reusable bags and containers, and all bulk goods had to be packaged.

10%

THE PANDEMIC HAS SHAPED AND INCREASED ONLINE GROCERY SHOPPING, WHICH IN TURN HAS INCREASED PLASTIC CONSUMPTION AMONG CONSUMERS

“there is currently no evidence of human or animal food or food packaging being associated with transmission of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19”



The above statement is on the United States Food and Drug Administration website. Yet even with this knowledge and increase in sanitization and cleaning methods, many grocery stores continue to use plastic because of fear-mongering by the plastic production companies in hopes of increased revenue.

how to be a more conscientious consumer

- bring bags. Most stores allow you to bag your own food
- buy in bulk, this limits overall packaging
- shop in the store. Most stores have allocated times for people at risk of developing severe illness
- put all food back in your cart after checking out and then place it in bags or bins when you arrive at your car
- for bulk item stores, see if you are able to reserve a time to shop



sources:

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/shopping-food-during-covid-19-pandemic-information-consumers>
<https://www.producebluebook.com/2021/02/16/how-the-pandemic-has-shaped-online-grocery-shopping/#>

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