# ON EMASSIENCE

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## **SHOPPING IN LOCKDOWN**

15 MAY 2020

### STARK CHANGES IN SHOPPER BEHAVIOUR EARLY IN LOCKDOWN

Early in lockdown supermarket shopping was anxiety inducing

Worries relating to keeping safe in supermarkets as well as product availability

Forced behaviour change meant more online shopping for essentials, no leisure shopping early in lockdown

Early stages of lock down saw growing reliance on local retailers, farm shops and independents

am happy to do things differently because I am protecting my loved ones Karen, older family



### 3 WEEKS LATER : FORCED BEHAVIOUR BECOMING THE NEW NORMAL

New shopping routines well established, preference given to one retailer for main shop

No spontaneous shopping trips. Food shopping all planned

Former behaviour starting to re-emerge, some impulse buying once in store

**Supporting pivoting businesses** "A lady near me is baking and selling Oreo brownies"

You don't pop into the shop on a whim because you fancy something. It has to have a purpose Adrian, young family



#### SHOPPING BASKET LARGELY UNCHAGED (TREATS THE MAIN EXCEPTION!)

**Cakes and biscuits** 

**Cooking sauces/kits** 

Yogurts/Desserts

**Toiletries/personal care** 

Prepared

Fruit and Veg

**Ready meals** 

Baking ingredients

Sweet/Savoury Snacks

Cleaning products

Whole

Fruit and Veg

**Frozen foods** 

Meat/Fish

**Own label versus branded** 

Alcohol

Based on claimed purchase behaviour

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#### SUPERMARKET ENVIRONMENT IS PARAMOUNT

Well managed stores praised allows for good social distancing

Acknowledgement that stock levels have improved and close to BC\* levels

Well managed environments allow time for browsing, typically shopping is 'in and out' Polite and friendly staff provide reassurance, helps engender a sense of normality

SNEMS \*BC Before Corona

#### SMALL FORMAT STORES HAVE A KEY ROLE IN NEW WAYS OF SHOPPING

A way of supporting local : farm shops, delis and independent retailers

Noted for hidden 'pockets' of availability

Quieter, and less stressful (easier social distancing)

Used proactively, rather than reactively

Incorporated into new routines

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I want to support family run businesses... plus the food is fresher and they're not packed full of people Rachel

I've bought alcohol from my local petrol station – they had loads when the supermarkets didn't! James

It's easy to get round small shops safely – it's all properly set up and I feel safe Maggie

They used to be for picking up things randomly, but not any more!

I use it (visiting convenience shop) as an reason to get out, and as part of my exercise regime Greg

#### **TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION IN OUR NEW WORLD**



List making and planning is paramount. Brands must be on shoppers' mental shopping list before getting on physical shopping list



In store fluency is vital. Strong and clear on-pack communication has never been more important



Over 70% of people in the UK are avoiding crowded spaces\*. It will take a long time for shopper behaviour to return to 'normal'. Brands must equip themselves to flourish now

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Next week we will focus on spending behaviour and money management

For more information on this, and our other lockdown publications. debbie@one-ms.com



AOR PROSPER RILEY-SMITH

FINALIST









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#### LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

An 8 week ongoing project with a small panel based across the UK

A mix of ages, lifestages and working status (including furlough)