



# SHOPPER INTELLIGENCE

## GROCERY SHOPPING DURING COVID-19

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Putting the shopper into the conversation..



WHAT



WHY &  
HOW



# 9 YEARS IN UK GROCERY – 600k interviews

- ⇒ **Objective** – neutral insight source, trusted by retailers
- ⇒ **In-depth** – category, segment, brand, customisation
- ⇒ **Benchmarking** - prioritise your investment



Shopper  
profile



Category  
DNA



Satisfaction



Path  
to  
Purchase



Instore  
Execution

# WHY & HOW



# Fieldwork details

## BEFORE

2019 Fieldwork (Mar-Aug)

Post shop questionnaire

Total Market view  
collected at a category  
level

n=20,320

Standardised questionnaire



## COVID-19

Fieldwork w/c 30/03

Post shop questionnaire

Total Market view  
collected at a category  
level

n=1,518

Standardised questionnaire  
plus custom CV-19 Q's



# Summary..



## How are we shopping?

- More men shopping
- Bigger baskets
- Shopping is more frequent
- Want to shop quickly
- Retailer loyalty still good
- Own label opportunity

01



## Changing attitudes

- Availability more important
- Harder to find your brand
- We're sticking to one store
- Choice is also critical
- Opportunity for off-shelf
- Impulse behaviour stronger

02



## Changing consumption

- We're forced to shop for occasions we otherwise wouldn't have
- Consumption is more expandable

03

# >>> How are we shopping?

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There's a more even mix across gender for the shopping trip  
**More men purchasing than normal..**

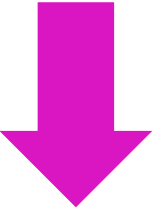
**43%**

Before = 36%



**57%**

Before = 64%

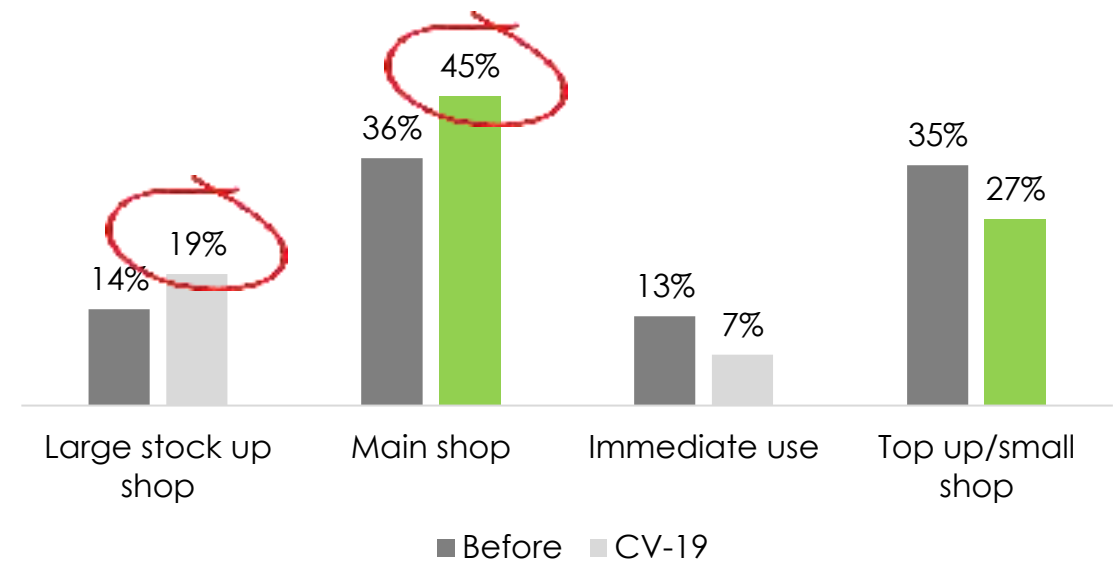


More opportunity to use shopper marketing to appeal to the male shopper





The main shop has become more of the norm  
**Bigger baskets represent almost 2/3rds of shops..**

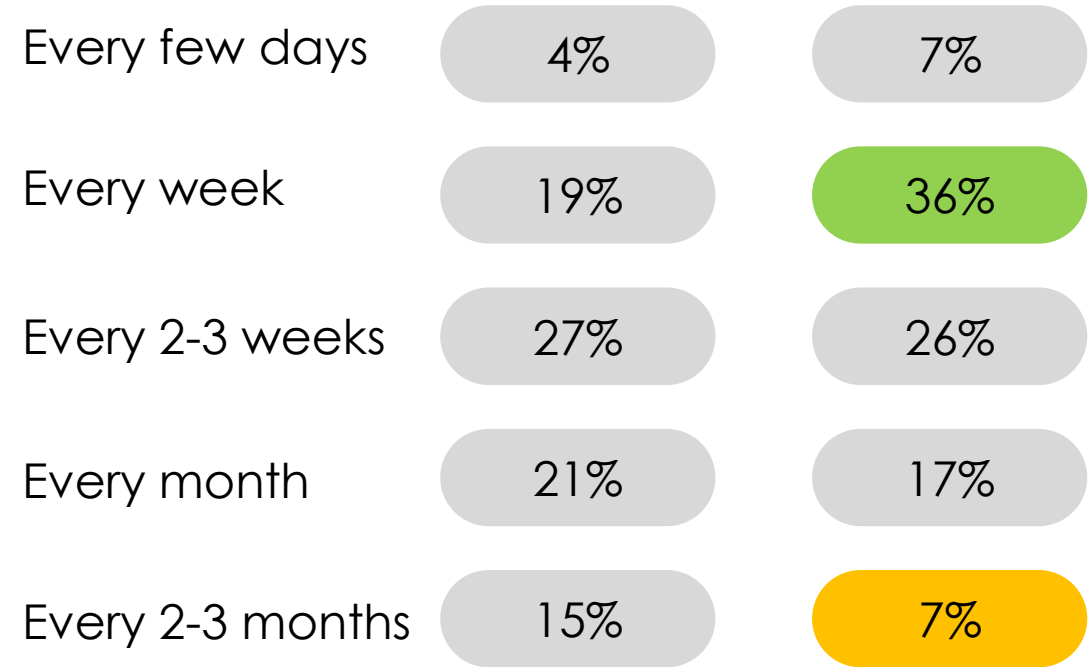
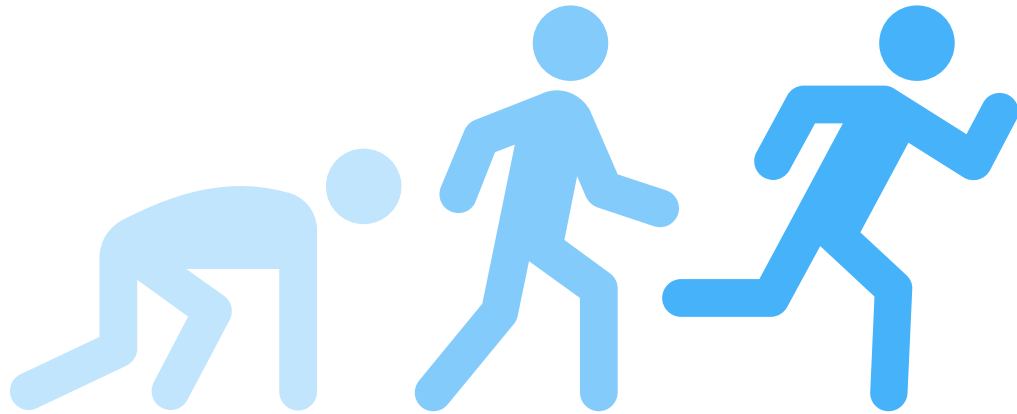


How can 'eat now' brands pivot to market for at home consumption





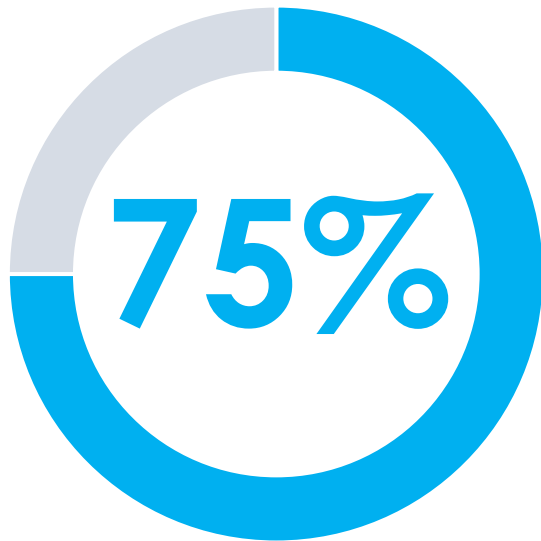
# And shopping is more frequent ..perhaps driven by concern about stock/running out?



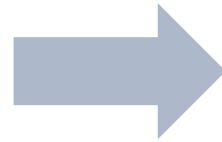
Driven by purchases on less frequent items, opportunity to drive loyalty



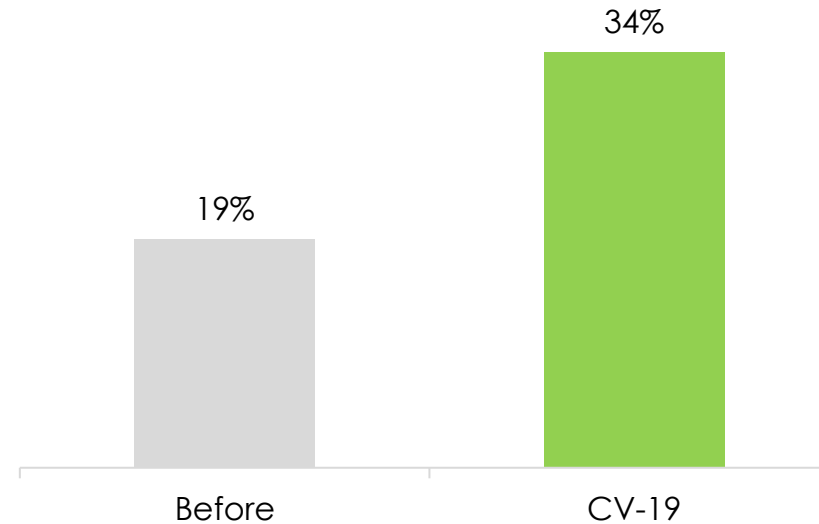
# Time in store is not something shoppers want **15% increase in shoppers feeling the pressure to get in and out!**



**Grab & Go**



“I did not want to spend more time than necessary in RETAILER”



Store experience may be crucial for longer term loyalty here



Retailer loyalty hasn't really been impacted so far  
**57% still shopping at same retailer (up from 47%)..**

**Social distancing  
enforced**

**58%**



**84%**



"Happy with how my retailer is handling the crisis"



**62%**

**Item limits  
enforced**

So far retailers are doing a good job of this




There are also more shoppers considering Own Label products  
**Quality generally good, but likely driven by stock issues**



**57%**

agree they're **willing**  
**to consider own label**

+8% 

Great opportunity for retailers to gain buyers if PL delivers on quality expectations

# >>> Changing attitudes..

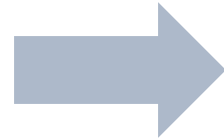
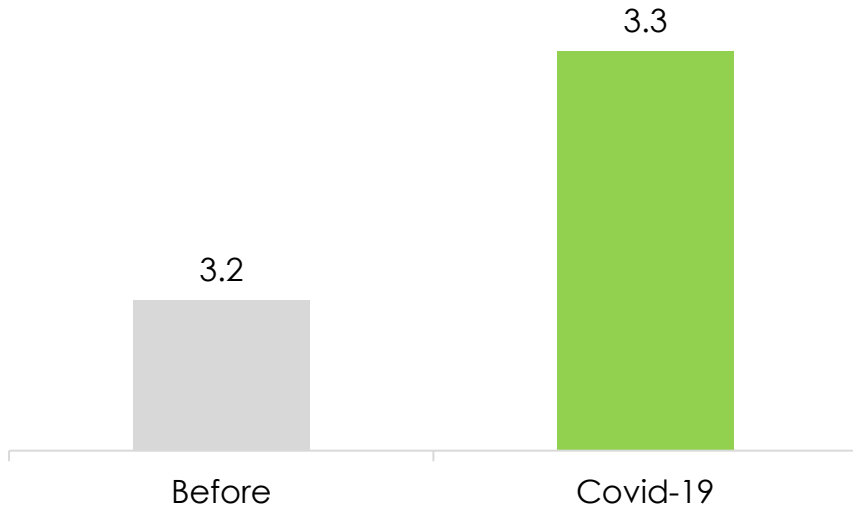
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# Availability is unsurprisingly now more important **Nearly two thirds are finding issues at the moment..**



Increase in Importance



**62%**

Say they have had issues with stock

Retailers and suppliers simplifying ranges but will this cause frustration?

5=most important  
1=least important

- 99%
- 90%
- < 90%
- 90%
- 99%
- > N

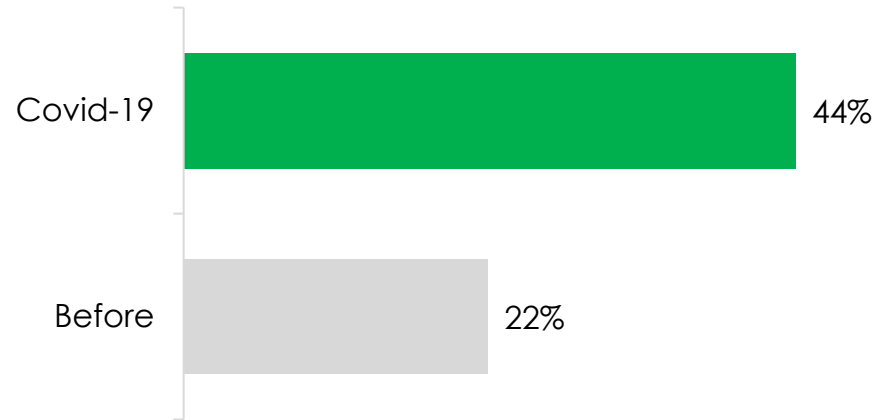
Benchmark:  
Before (2019)



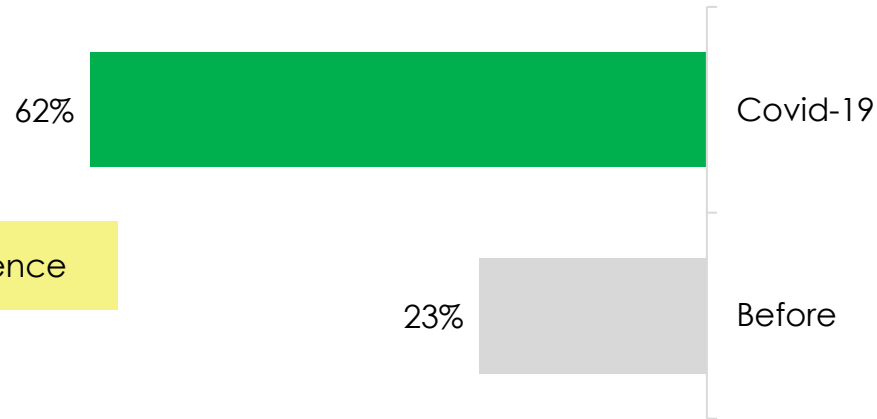


# It's harder to find the specific items/brands you want ..because they're not in stock?

**"I didn't buy the brand/brands I planned to buy"**



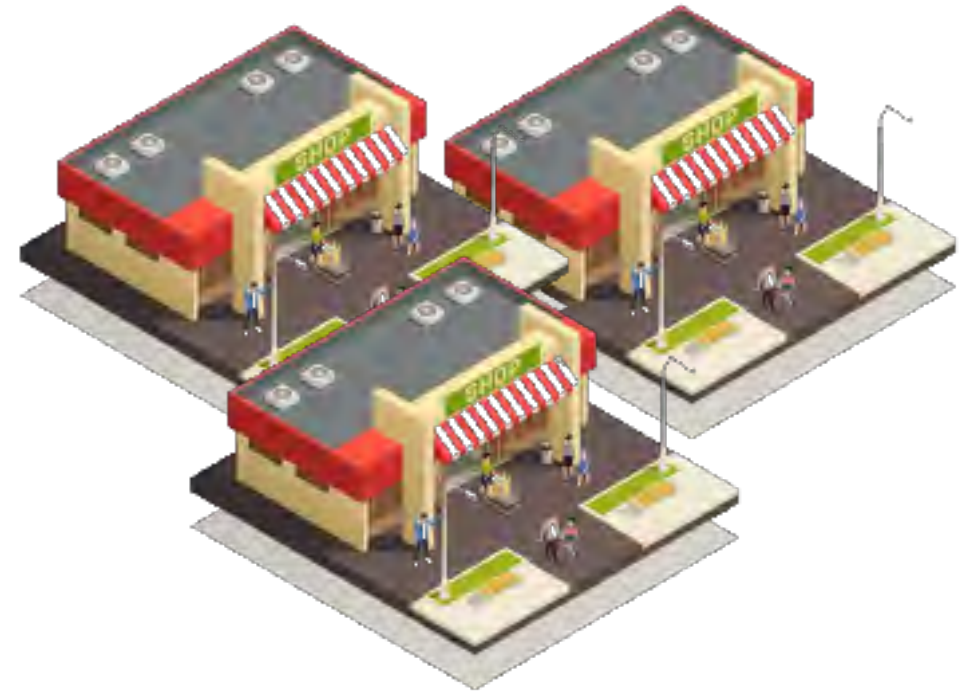
**"It was out of stock / I couldn't find it"**



Risk for brands with less share of space/shelf presence



We're not shopping around for items though  
**The vast majority don't look elsewhere..**



**89%**

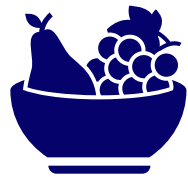
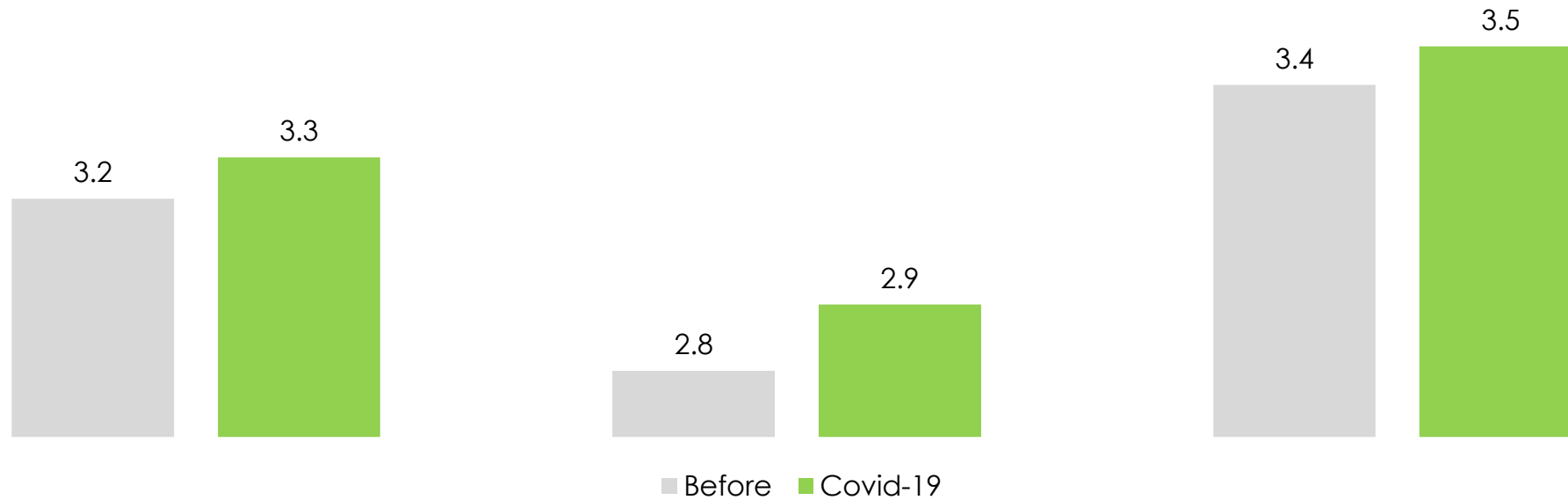
only visited one store

Further evidence of loyalty and that most are obeying government guidelines





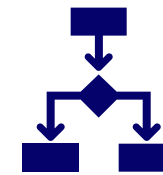
This means choice is more important than ever  
**..and 21% were forced to buy something they normally wouldn't**



Healthy choices



Innovation



Range

5=most important  
1=least important

● 99% ● 90% ● < 90% ● 90% ● 99% ● > N

Benchmark:  
Before (2019)

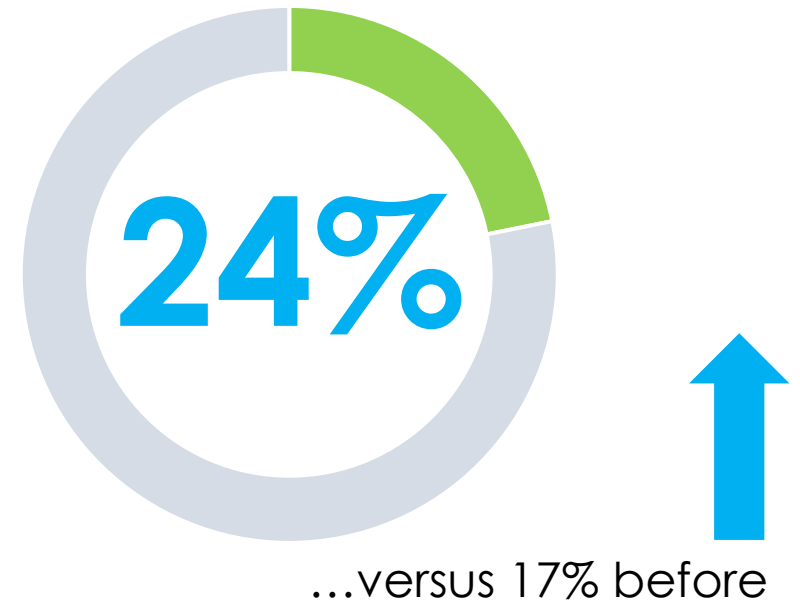
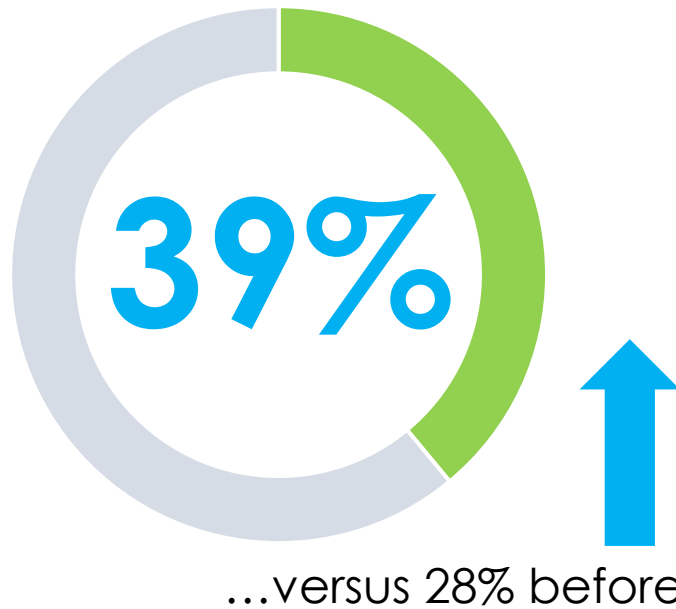




It also leads to more significance for off shelf feature  
**An opportunity for brands that can secure secondary space**

**DISPLAY** is a key trigger to purchase

Bought from **SECONDARY DISPLAY**



With poorer availability we're picking up items wherever we can find them



# Shoppers are being more impulsive as a result A chance to create new purchase habits?



# 38%

agree they're **"willing to try new/different"**



+8% vs. before



+28% vs. before

agree they **"buy because they feel like it"**

# 27%



% agreement with statement

● 99% ● 90% ● < 90% ● 90% ● 99% ● > N

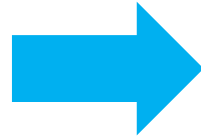
Benchmark: Before (2019)



# >>> Changing consumption..



# The working lunch is now at home! **28% buying for 'lunch at home' occasion..**



+9% versus before

An opportunity to capitalise on some of the £bn not being spent out of home

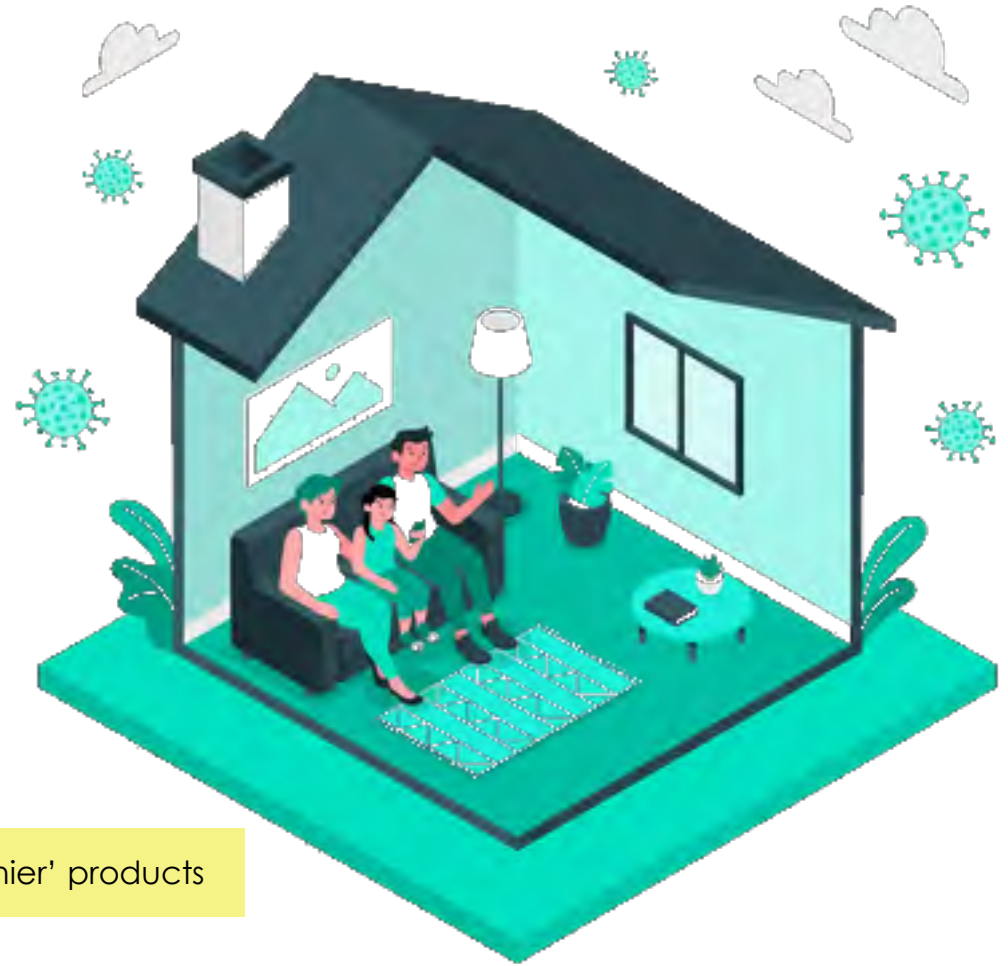


Lockdown may mean we're being tempted to eat more  
**Expandability is up..**



**25%**

“the **more** we buy the **more** we consume”  
...up from 16% previously



Boredom leads to the fridge! Good opportunity to leverage 'healthier' products

# >>> Closing thoughts

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## Some final thoughts..

- **Some of the obvious stuff is changing as we might expect**
  - Bigger shops, focus on availability and choice, less time wanted in store
- **There are opportunities if handled well**
  - Off shelf and display are getting greater engagement and awareness
  - Own Label is more likely under consideration
  - 'At home' consumption of typical 'out of home' occasions means a new opportunity for brands that act
- **Long term changes aren't yet clear**
  - We may see a lot of these trends revert once times return to more normal behaviour





All data in this report is available at a **category and retailer level** as part of our ongoing, store - wide shopper benchmarking service

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