

Hoarding Is Contagious

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BEFORE YOU READ:

1. What does the author mean by the title?
2. When you first heard about the pandemic, did you hoard any items? If so, what?

Hoarding is when you buy and store lots of things you think you might need. People hoard for different reasons. During a pandemic, people worry about not having enough of what they need. So they decide to stock up on certain items. Hoarding spreads. If you see other people doing it, you think that you better do it, too. You don't want to

be left out. It turns out, hoarding is contagious, just like the virus.

Now some people are storing large quantities of these items, and other people don't have any.

As a society, we pay a high price for hoarding, especially during a pandemic.

Experts say that we should wear a mask, wash our hands, and clean the items we touch, like our phones. Consequently, people start panic buying. They hoard hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks. It's hard to find the things we need, like toilet paper and bleach. Now some people are storing a lot of these items, and



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other people don't have any. If some people can't follow the public health rules, that puts everyone at risk.

Panic buying and hoarding is bad for society in other ways, too. It puts stress on store employees who have to restock shelves. Also, hoarding makes prices go up. Even if you find the item you need, you might not be able to afford it. If you can't get what you need, you feel despair.

We could do better. We could look out for our neighbors by not buying more than we need. Think of the sadness on a mother's face when she can't provide for her family. Let's come together and make this world a better place, even through a pandemic. Think about how we can give a helping hand by sharing with our brothers and sisters, not hoarding!



Empty grocery store shelves that were once filled with toilet paper. Photo by Indrid_Cold via <commons.wikimedia.org>.

AFTER YOU READ: According to the author, why is hoarding bad for society?