

## Scarcity and Covid-19

Have you been to the grocery store lately? If so, you may have noticed many products are out of stock that have never been out of stock before. When a product is greatly needed by a lot of people at the same time and there is not enough of that product for everyone to have, it becomes scarce. Scarcity has become a huge issue for people all over the world as we battle the Covid-19 virus. There are many reasons that this is occurring, but one of the main reasons is people are worried that they will not be able to get scarce items again. Scarce items currently are toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. Another reason these products are scarce are more people want more cleaning supplies, so they can hopefully get rid of the virus germs around their own homes. This causes a lot of people to go out and buy these supplies all at the same time.

Another item that is scarce right now is the Nintendo Switch. The supply (number of Nintendo Switches available) is less than the demand (number of people who want to buy Nintendo Switches), for this reason the price of Nintendo Switches has gone up. The Nintendo Switch is hard to find in stores, which means people who have them are selling them for more than they are typically worth. Since many people are bored at home and looking for something to do, they are willing to spend more on this product than they normally would.

## Scarcity Cause and Effect

Directions: Look at the example below. Then, on the next page, try on your own.

On the chart, add what might make the price of a scarce Covid-19 item rise. Think about what might happen if the price of that item rises.

\*Items to choose from: toilet paper, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, paper towels, face masks, Nintendo Switch

### Causes

Lots of people bought toilet paper at the same time

People were worried they would not be able to buy toilet paper for months

Price of toilet paper is on the rise

### Effects

Toilet paper is not available many at stores.

People are buying more paper towels and baby wipes instead because toilet paper is scarce.

Some people have more toilet paper than they need while other people do not have any toilet paper at all.

Causes

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Price of \_\_\_\_\_  
is on the rise

Effects

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