

Here is an update on the situation regarding supermarket delivery services in our immediate area. We will endeavour to update this should circumstances change.

Major supermarkets who run delivery services are concentrating on serving vulnerable customers. They are using information from Government and if residents feel they are vulnerable they can register through this link: www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable.

To put the pressure that supermarkets are under in to context, with the majority of the country at home, there are an estimated 34 million more in-home breakfasts per week that need to be catered for. This means products like eggs, bacon, butter and bread are being shopped a lot more than usual to replace breakfasts that customers usually have out of the home. Likewise, there are thought to be an additional 160 million more in-home lunches that need to be catered for.

This theory goes some way to explain the increased demand on toilet paper too...

Waitrose & Partners have committed at least 25% of their online delivery slots to elderly and vulnerable customers. By Easter they will have 20% more slots available than usual with hundreds of additional drivers and Partners in shops picking and delivering orders. The temporary closure of John Lewis & Partners shops has meant thousands of additional Partners from the John Lewis Partnership are able to support in Waitrose & Partners. Regular customers who shop at [waitrose.com](https://www.waitrose.com) are also having slots reserved for them but these do go extremely quickly so advice would be to check www.waitrose.com on a daily basis.

Sainsbury's have almost doubled the number of delivery slots they have available and they continue to work on increasing this number. They, along with all other supermarkets, are prioritising elderly and vulnerable customers where possible. www.sainsburys.co.uk/

Overall supermarkets and their suppliers are starting to see a more regular pattern of shopping behaviours as social distancing measures become the norm. This allows them to work more effectively in getting the right products and right amount of those products to the right shops at the right time. Hopefully this will contribute to better availability on the shelf and customers being able to get the products they want, or at least a suitable alternative.

Suffice to say that all supermarkets are working around the clock to bring essential groceries to their customers.