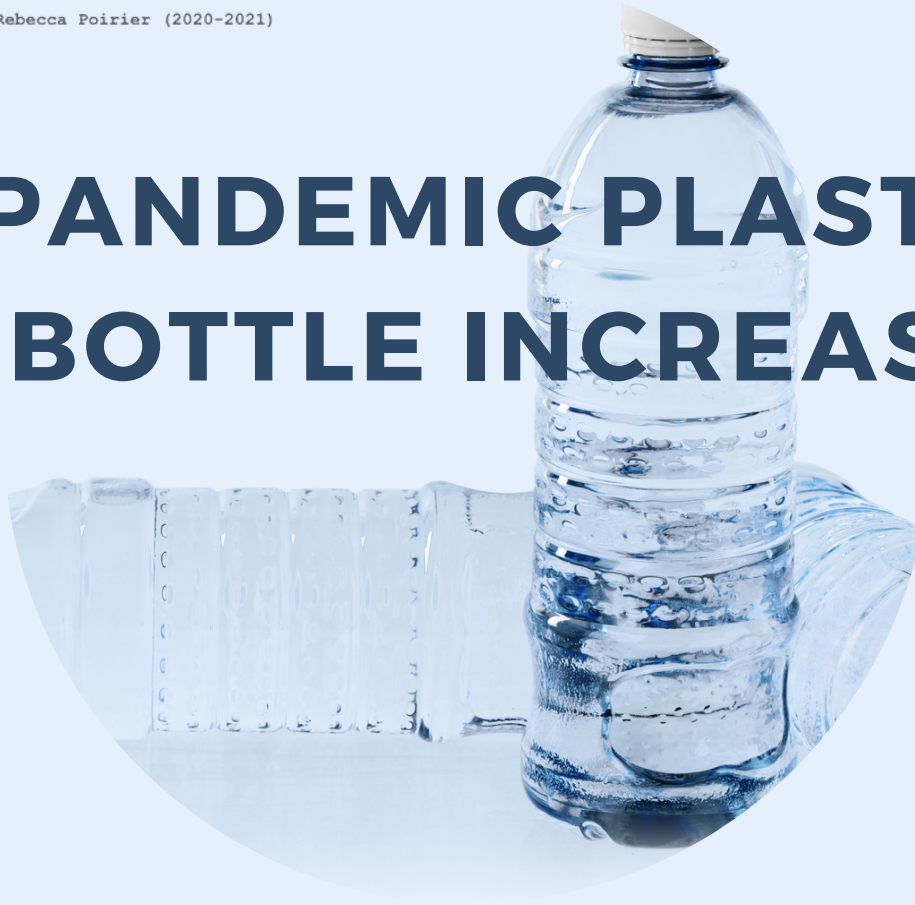


# PANDEMIC PLASTIC BOTTLE INCREASE



With water fountains closed and cups unavailable due to fear of spreading disease, many companies have transitioned to handing out plastic bottles for customers.

## FACTS:



Plastic bottles cause harm from before they are produced to after they are thrown away. 80% of plastic bottles end up in land fill.

Plastic bottles leak harmful chemicals both in production and in disposal. These harmful chemicals can cause both environmental hazards and health hazards such as infertility and cancer when the leech into the ground and our watersources.



According to ICSC the pandemic has made recycled plastic 83% to 93% more expensive than new bottle-grade plastic. So with the increase of bottles use by people there is an increase of fossil fuel use by manufacturers.



In some coffee shops and fast food restaurants they will fill a water bottle, so don't forget to ask!



The manufacture of four plastic bottles releases the equivalent greenhouse gas emissions of driving one mile in a car. So bring a reusable one!



If you are leaving the house, plan your day ahead of time and remember to fill up a bottle or two!



If you don't like the taste of tap water try a brita, a pur tap, or just some lemon.

### Info links:

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/health-coronavirus-plastic-recycling/>

<https://www.sustainability-times.com/sustainable-business/plastic-waste-has-skyrocketed-during-the-pandemic-but-there-is-hope/>

Meyer, N., Lubeck, V. (2020). Battle of the Bottle: Life Cycle Analysis of a Hydro Flask vs. Plastic Water Bottle.\*

\*article not peer reviewed