

# **Consumer, Food, and Retail** Health and Wellness

MARKET UPDATE | COVID-19



# Houlihan Lokey Health and Wellness Update

The outbreak of COVID-19 has resulted in a global health emergency elevating awareness of self-care and personal well-being among consumers; Houlihan Lokey is pleased to present an assessment of the impact on the health and wellness sector and implications for the industry's future outlook as informed by our **proprietary consumer survey**.

#### Sector Observations and Recent Activity

In recent weeks, COVID-19 has sent shock waves through global markets and captured the attention of the world. Since mid-February, the outbreak has accelerated and infections have become widespread, resulting in significant market volatility that is expected to continue in the near term.

The health and wellness sector has been a rare bright spot as consumers flocked to self-care and wellness products during the COVID-19 pandemic. But what are the implications in a post-COVID world, where discretionary spending may come into focus? Through our proprietary survey, Houlihan Lokey has identified several key trends that could be indicative of a "new normal" in consumer sentiment and buying behavior for the health and wellness sector.

- 1 Preventive Products Are Winning: Surge in demand for consumer healthcare and preventive wellness products—particularly immunity—where zinc, vitamin C, and elderberry are trending at record levels.
- 2 The Fresh Face of Wellness: Millennial and Gen Z age groups show the highest levels of concern for their own personal health, being significantly more likely than older generations to increase spend on health and wellness products as a result of the pandemic.
- **3** Flight to Quality: Notable shift in consumer preference towards trusted brands, sourcing transparency, and especially product efficacy as households nationwide increasingly practice self-care.
- **E-Commerce Is King:** Acceleration of online purchasing is disproportionately benefiting wellness brands with strong e-commerce and DTC capabilities amid continued shelter-in-place restrictions.
  - **New Consumers Emerge:** Daily routines will resume with an elevated sense of caution and awareness regarding one's health, leading to an influx of new consumers for health and wellness products long term.

The data presented in the pages that follow is derived from a proprietary Houlihan Lokey survey of 200 respondents across the United States, spanning age and gender demographics. The online questionnaire asked consumers about various topics, including consumption across consumer product categories during the pandemic, how they expect their consumption to change post pandemic, as well as what key product and brand attributes are important to them in this rapidly changing and uncertain environment.

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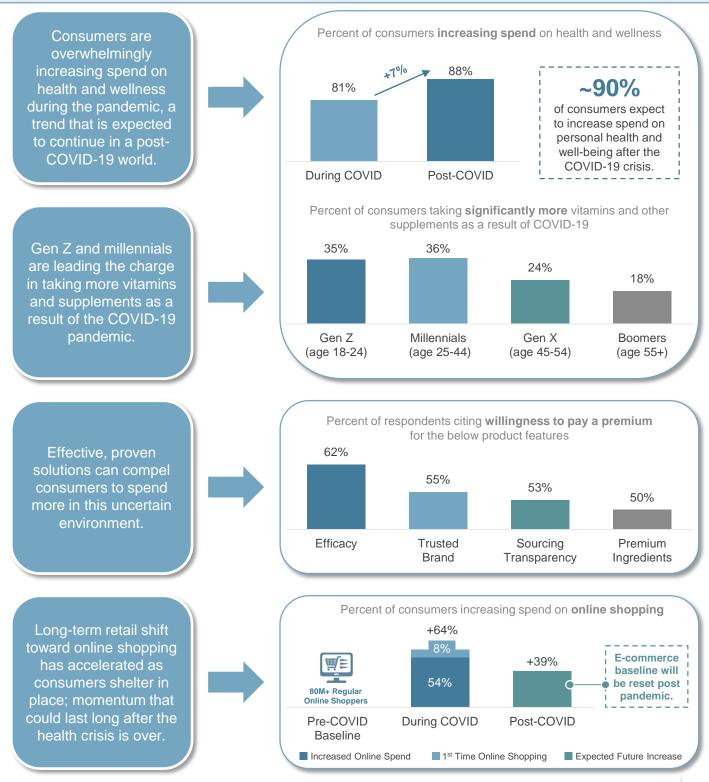
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# Health and Wellness: Long-Term Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic will have long-term repercussions on overall consumer behavior with positive implications for the health and wellness sector.

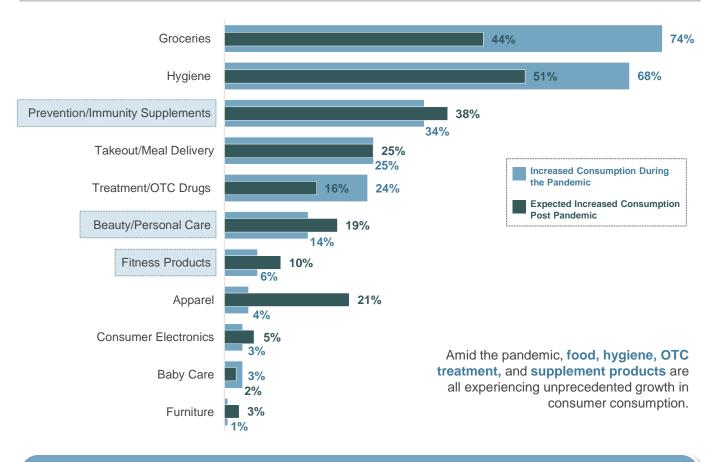


Source: Houlihan Lokey proprietary consumer survey, April 2020 | Natural Marketing Institute COVID-19 webinar, April 2020.

# Health and Wellness: Long-Term Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Cont.)

Health and wellness categories are experiencing unprecedented levels of demand during the pandemic, with surveyed consumers indicating increased consumption may be the "**new normal.**"

## **Categories With Increased Consumption During the Pandemic vs. Post Pandemic**



## The 'New Normal'

Although consumption is up across the board during the COVID-19 pandemic, categories that are more focused on **prevention**, **self-care**, and **general wellness** (i.e., supplements, beauty/personal care, and fitness products) are expected to experience <u>even greater</u> consumption once the health crisis has passed.

Percent Change of Top Eight Categories: Increased Consumption Post-COVID vs. During COVID

Hygiene	Groceries	Prevention/ Supplements	Takeout/ Meal Delivery	Apparel	Beauty/ Personal Care	Treatment/ OTC Drugs	Fitness Products <b>+}} –}}</b>
(18%)	(30%)	+4%	0%	+17%	+5%	(8.5%)	+4%

# How Houlihan Lokey Can Help

Our firm is extremely well equipped to help our clients navigate uncertain times. We respond quickly to challenging situations and are constantly helping clients to analyze, structure, negotiate, and execute the best possible solutions from both a strategic and a financial perspective



#### Corporate Finance

We have been the most active advisor to the North American food and beverage industry for over a decade and have long-standing relationships with capital providers, including private equity funds, family offices, commercial banks, and other senior credit providers, insurance funds, asset managers, and mezzanine fund investors.

#### Financial Restructuring

We have the largest restructuring practice of any global investment bank. Since 1988, we have advised on more than 1,000 such transactions (with aggregate debt claims in excess of \$2.5 trillion). We served as an advisor in 12 of the largest 15 bankruptcies from 2000–2019.

#### Financial and Valuation Advisory

For nearly four decades, we have established ourselves as one of the largest financial and valuation advisory firms. Our transaction expertise and leadership in the field of valuation help inspire confidence in financial executives, boards of directors, special committees, investors, and business owners we serve.

## Why We're Different

Dominant in Special Situations and Restructuring

Significant Experience With Financing Markets

Senior-Level Commitment and Dedication

Deep, Industry-Specific Expertise

Superior Work Product/Technical Abilities

Creativity, Imagination, Tenacity, and Positivity



## Houlihan Lokey is the trusted advisor to more top decisionmakers than any other independent global investment bank.

No. 1 Global Investment Banking Restructuring Advisor No. 1 M&A Advisor for All U.S. Transactions With 184 Deals in 2019 No. 1 Global M&A Fairness Opinion Advisor Over the Past 20 Years

### Leading Advisor to the Consumer, Food, and Retail Industry With a Deep, Global Footprint



Source: Refinitiv (formerly known as Thomson Reuters)

## Select Recent Health and Wellness Sector Transactions

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