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## Growing plastic pollution in wake of COVID-19



The pandemic has led to a *surge* (= flot, déferlement) in pollution from disposable products, like plastic face masks and hand sanitizer bottles.

What can help limit the *spread* (= la propagation) of coronavirus waste ?

Coronavirus lockdowns around the globe have led to a dramatic 5% drop in greenhouse gas emissions, according to UNCTAD estimates, but not all measures to contain the pandemic have had a positive impact on the environment.

Our streets, beaches and ocean have been hit by a tidal wave of COVID-19 waste including plastic face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer bottles and food packaging.

Plastic pollution was already one of the greatest threats to our planet before the coronavirus outbreak. The sudden boom in the daily use of certain products to keep people safe and stop the disease is making things much worse.

Global sales of disposable face masks alone are set to skyrocket from an estimated \$800 million in 2019 to \$166 billion in 2020, according to business consulting firm Grand View Research. But this is only part of the story. Social distancing has also led to a flood of products delivered daily to homes – wrapped in a plethora of packaging – as people turn to online shopping and takeout services. The ensuing plastic waste is enormous. For instance, during Singapore’s eight-week lockdown, the island city-state’s 5.7 million residents discarded an additional 1,470 tons of plastic waste from takeout packaging and food delivery alone, according to a survey (= sondage) by *The Los Angeles Times*.

About 75% of coronavirus plastic will likely become waste, clogging ( clog = engorger, obstruer) our landfills and floating in our seas. And the costs are shocking.

The negative spillover effects ( =retombées) of plastic waste on fisheries, tourism and maritime transport, for example, add up to an estimated \$40 billion each year.

## Reading activity -

➡ 1- Read the article . => Complete this summary of its content with the words given:

=> environment - oceans and seas - pollution - consequences - globe - measures

This article deals with the ..... of Covid 19 on the .....,  
in particular on the ..... . This plastic .....  
has **increased\*** lately because of all the Covid19 safety ..... taken all  
around the ..... (\* increase = augmenter)

➡ 2- Highlight in YELLOW every word related to the Covid19 virus.

➡ 3- Vocabulary : read the article again and find in the text the English words for:

a. jetable (adj) :

b. un confinement :

c. du désinfectant :

d. les déchets :

e. une chute, une baisse :

f. les gaz à effet de serre :

g. une menace :

h. livré :

i. emballé, emballage :

j. monter en flèche, flamber :

k. épidémie/ explosion/ débordement :

l. les emballages :

m. une décharge (d'ordures) :

n. une inondation :

o. : en sécurité/ sain & sauf (adj) :

l. selon ... (quand on cite l'avis de quelqu'un)

➡ 4- Find in the article a synonym for:

\* for example :

\* throw ( away ) =

\* an illness =

(jeter)

(maladie)

➡ 5- Circle all the words and phrases related to the lexical field of the OCEAN.