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March 17, 2020

[Philadelphia Inquirer Comcast offers free WiFi, waives data cap and late fees, won't disconnect service during coronavirus](#)

As more U.S. states and cities order lockdowns to help prevent the continued spread of the coronavirus, more cable operators are following Comcast in temporarily lifting data caps and service terminations.

Pennlive
Coronavirus
prompts Pa. doctors'
office to issue
unusual order: 'Stop
stealing our toilet
paper, masks, hand
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Pittsburgh Post-
Gazette
Pa. likely has first
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COVID-19 cases

The Morning Call
Pennsylvania
coronavirus update:
Gov. Wolf orders all
nonessential
businesses in the
state to shut down: 'I
would like people to
stay home 24 hours
a day'

The Philadelphia
Inquirer
Pennsylvania may
delay its presidential
primary election
because of
coronavirus

The Hill
Senators urge FCC
to shore up internet
access for students

On Friday, Comcast announced a series of steps it is taking to help consumers in its service footprint stay connected. In addition to pausing its 1TB data cap for 60 days, the company made Xfinity WiFi hotspots free for everyone, and said it won't disconnect internet service or charge late fees for consumers who contact the company to say they can't pay their bills during the lockdown. The company is also giving low-income families 60 days of free access to its Internet Essentials broadband program.

"During this extraordinary time, it is vital that as many Americans as possible stay connected to the internet – for education, work, and personal health reasons," said Comcast Cable CEO Dave Watson in a statement. "Our employees also live and work in virtually every community we serve, and we all share the same belief that it's our Company's responsibility to step up and help out."

Charter on Friday also said that for the next 60 days it will offer free Spectrum broadband access to households with K-12 or college students who don't already have any Spectrum service. The company also said it will open its Wi-Fi hotspots for public use and reminded consumers that Spectrum does not have data caps.

More smaller cable operators are following suit on the data cap suspension. Sparklight and NewWave Communications – both broadband providers run by Cable One, said on Friday they're going with unlimited data on all plans for the next 30 days and waiving late fees for 60 days.

Fidelity Communications said that it is waiving late fees for 60 days. Atlantic Broadband said that until further notice, it won't terminate any internet service or charge late fees. Beam, a cable operator in Alabama, said it's offering free 50 Mbps internet service for 30 days (and free installation) to new customers with K-12 or college students. - ***Fierce Video***



**Broadband
Cable Association
of Pennsylvania**

127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-214-2000 (F) 717-214-2020
bcap.org

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