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Amazon.com Inc. will halt a delivery service for non- Amazon packages, according to people familiar with the matter, as it re-evaluates the nascent offering that competes directly with FedEx Corp. and United Parcel Service Inc. Amazon told shippers the service, known as Amazon Shipping, will be paused starting in June. It was available in just a handful of U.S. cities.

Under the program, Amazon drivers would pick up packages from businesses and deliver them to consumers, rather than ship orders from Amazon warehouses. "We understand this is a change to your business, and we did not take this decision lightly," Amazon said in a note to shippers reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. "We will work with you over the next several weeks so there is as little disruption to your business as possible."

Amazon is suspending the service because it needs its people and capacity to handle a surge in its own customers' orders, according to a person familiar with the matter. The company has said it wants to hire 100,000 warehouse workers and is focusing on [shipping essential items during the coronavirus outbreak](#). Amazon in the past had sought to woo shippers to the new service by offering simpler rates, including [the elimination of many fees and surcharges](#) that other carriers add on to pad their revenues. It tested the program in London and Los Angeles, but didn't make it widely available in the U.S.

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New York Times
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Biden rallies
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workers from his
basement

Amazon remains a force in the shipping industry, with over 30,000 vehicles, 20,000 trailers and dozens of aircraft that move packages across the country. In addition to its own delivery drivers, Amazon also hands off a significant chunk of its home deliveries to UPS and the U.S. Postal Service. Amazon last year ended a shipping contract with FedEx, which increasingly viewed the online merchant as a competitive threat because of its growing shipping prowess.

FedEx and UPS have experienced a Christmas-like boom in home deliveries in recent weeks as people shop from home, while shipments have deteriorated to stores or [businesses that have closed](#). Meanwhile, the virus has upended the daily routine of delivering packages. Amazon, FedEx and UPS have each had to implement new safety measures and [scramble to provide protective equipment](#) as some workers test positive for the coronavirus. A UPS spokesman declined to comment.

FedEx said its ground network is well prepared to manage the current surge in e-commerce. "We are continuing to work with our small business customers during this time to support their growth," a FedEx spokeswoman said. – ***Wall Street Journal***

State police right now are trying to educate Pennsylvanians about Gov. Tom Wolf's stay-at-home order to fight the [coronavirus](#) but that forbearance won't last forever, one of the force's leaders said Tuesday. "We're warning, we're encouraging, we're educating but eventually if they're not compliant we'll move to an enforcement position," said Lt. Col. Scott Price, the deputy commissioner of operations. "If folks don't comply then we will begin issuing more citations."

Only a few of those have been handed out so far, he said. One, for \$200, was [issued to a York County woman](#) who was out for a drive. A [couple who were outside drinking](#) in Lancaster County and [two 19-year-olds](#) who were driving around in Columbia County also were ticketed. Judging from what Price said during Tuesday afternoon's over-the-phone press conference, those citation issuances might have gotten ahead of the official give them a warning policy.

Nor are troopers confronting people to see if they're breaching the stay-at-home edict, which is meant to curb the spread of COVID-19, Price said. "We don't stop cars simply to determine what someone's reason for traveling might be, for example," he said. At the same time Wolf is ordering people to stay at home, other state officials are encouraging sportsmen to hit the roads and streams for the two week earlier than normal opening of trout fishing season.

Fishing is an allowable activity, although social distancing should be practiced with other anglers, Price said. And, he said it is advisable "to engage in those activities close to home." There are indications the coronavirus restrictions are being heeded by most Pennsylvanians and are working, Price said. One gauge is the traffic flow on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Price said non-commercial traffic on the pike is down by 76.5 percent, while commercial traffic has dropped by 27.5 percent. "Yes," he said, "Pennsylvanians are getting the message." – ***Pennlive***

Atlantic Broadband, the nation's eighth-largest cable operator, has reported significant increases in internet bandwidth usage since the COVID-19 outbreak. With stay-at-home orders in place in most states, there has been a significant increase in traffic due to work-from-home, e-learning and increased usage of video platforms. Since mid-March:

- Internet traffic from Atlantic Broadband customers increased approximately 25%, with some areas exceeding 30%.
- Netflix has experienced bandwidth usage nearly 60% higher, with some evenings seeing peaks 80% higher.
- Video on Demand (VOD) usage increased by 50%.
- Overall usage on the company's video platforms has been higher not only during the typical peak period of primetime, but also throughout the day, with those peaks extending for longer periods of time.
- Heightened usage levels are expected to continue while business and residential customers are staying at home, as needs for educational, work and entertainment resources are high.

The network utilization increases have generally followed the timing of the stay-at-home orders that have been issued by state governors, with orders now in effect in ten of the eleven states in which the company provides services. Network engineers have been actively monitoring traffic at the company's network operations centers in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania. While the network has ample capacity to meet the current demand, the company said it has the ability to add additional capacity should it be necessary in the future in order to maintain the highest levels of network performance.

"We provide vital, essential services and understand that network connectivity is of critical importance at this time, so we have devoted our full resources to ensuring this connectivity," said Aaron Brace, Vice President of Engineering for Atlantic Broadband. "Due to the major investment we have made in our fiber-broadband infrastructure, our network is built to accommodate the increased levels of demand that have occurred in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak." – **ABB news release**



Stay safe



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