

Amazon suspends all activity in France amid virus crisis

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In this April 9, 2020 file photo, employees observe social distancing due to coronavirus, at the entrance of Amazon, in Douai, northern France. A French court has ordered Amazon to stop buying, storing or delivering non-essential goods for the next month to protect its employees from the virus. The emergency ruling Tuesday requires Amazon to evaluate health risks at all its facilities nationwide and negotiate new safety measures with worker representatives, according to lawyers for unions that launched the legal proceedings. (AP Photo/Michel Spingler, File)

Amazon said Wednesday it will "temporarily" suspend all activity in France, one day after a French court ruled it wasn't doing enough to protect its workers in the country amid the pandemic.

The online giant, which has six warehouses in France, said in a statement that "this week, we are requesting employees of our distribution centers to stay at home. (In) the longer term, we will evaluate the impact of that ([court](#)) decision for them and our French logistic network."

Amazon France also said it is appealing Tuesday's emergency ruling, which requires the company to stop selling non-essential goods for a month while it works out new worker safety measures.

Sales of food, medicine and hygiene supplies are still allowed under the ruling.

However Amazon France said that given the "inherent complexity" of its activities and the potential 1-million-euro (\$1.1 million) fine for each violation of the ruling, the risk was "too high."

Earlier Wednesday, the [company](#) had stressed the importance of its services to the "thousands of French companies that sell on Amazon" and "millions of people around the country who want to have access to products they need during the crisis."

Amazon insisted that it is providing adequate security measures for staff, noting the implementation of temperature checks and mask distribution.

But the court found Amazon didn't do enough to enforce social distancing, to ensure that turnstiles and locker rooms were virus-free, or to increase cleaning of its warehouses. Unions say one [worker](#) infected

with the virus is in intensive care.

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