

Apple closes stores in 4 states, again, as infections rise

June 19 2020, by Michael Liedtke



In this March 14, 2020 file photo, an Apple retail store is closed at a local mall in Scottsdale, Ariz. Apple is temporarily closing 11 stores in Arizona, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina just few weeks after reopening them in hopes that consumers would be able to shop in them without raising the risk of infecting them or company workers with the novel coronavirus that caused COVID-19. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File)

Apple is closing 11 stores in Arizona, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina that it had reopened just few weeks ago as coronavirus infections rates in some regions in the U.S. begin to rise.

The decision announced Friday is another sign that the pandemic might prevent the economy from bouncing back as quickly as some states have been hoping. Those concerns sent stocks on Wall Street lower Friday.

Arizona and Florida have both experienced rising incidents of new cases and rates of those testing positive for COVID-19.

There were 286.7 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people in Arizona over the past two weeks, which ranks first in the country for new cases per capita. The rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by 1,024.1, or 143.1%.

Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases in Florida has increased by 1,422.7, or 144.4%., according to researchers began reopening more than 30 stores scattered across the country last month after shutting down all of its U.S. brick-and-mortar locations in March. The Cupertino, California, company has continued to sell iPhones, including a new \$399 model released during the lockdown, and other products in its [online store](#).



In this March 14 2020 file photo, Apple employees work inside a closed Apple store in Miami. Apple is temporarily closing 11 stores in Arizona, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina just few weeks after reopening them in hopes that consumers would be able to shop in them without raising the risk of infecting them or company workers with the novel coronavirus that caused COVID-19. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File)

Seven of the Apple stores that are closing again are in Arizona. Two stores are closing in both Florida and North Carolina. The other one is in South Carolina.

Although he doesn't expect the store closures to put a significant dent in Apple's sales, Wedbush Securities Daniel Ives said the move "is a worrisome trend that speaks to the volatility and fluidity of this COVID

environment."

Like many of the biggest players in the technology industry, Apple has been faring far better than most companies as the U.S. economy has plunged into a recession that is widely expected to last through this year. Apple's [stock price](#) hit a record high of \$356.56 in Friday's early trading before news of the store closures rattled investors.

The shares were down by about 1.5% in afternoon trading.

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