

Amazon now says remote work OK 2 days a week

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In this March 20, 2020, file photo, the Amazon campus outside the company headquarters in Seattle sits nearly deserted on an otherwise sunny and warm afternoon. Corporate and tech employees at Amazon won't have to work in offices full time after coronavirus restrictions are lifted. The online retail giant said in a company blog post Thursday, June 10, 2021, that those workers can work remotely two days a week. In addition, the employees can work remotely from a domestic location for four full weeks each year. Credit: AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File

Corporate and tech employees at Amazon won't have to work in offices full time after coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

The Seattle Times [reports](#) the online retail giant said in a company blog post Thursday that those workers can work remotely two days a week. In addition, the employees can work remotely from a domestic location for four full weeks each year.

Amazon's work policy update follows backlash from some employees to what they interpreted as the expectation they would have to return to the [office](#) full time once states reopen.

Some tech companies had launched recruiting campaigns that seemed targeted in part at Amazon workers' dismay over an end to [remote work](#).

Most Amazon employees will start heading back to offices as soon as local jurisdictions fully reopen—July 1 in Washington state—with the majority of workers in offices by autumn, the company said previously.

Amazon has about 75,000 employees in the greater Seattle area. The company's new remote-work plan is similar to other large tech companies.

Google said last month that it expected roughly 60% of its workforce to come into the office a few days a week, and for 20% to work from home full time. Google also gave all employees the option to work remotely full time four weeks per year. Facebook and Microsoft have both said most workers can choose to stay remote.

Amazon's new policy could add to the challenges faced by Seattle's traditional business core. In pre-pandemic times, tens of thousands of Amazon workers commuted into the South Lake Union neighborhood north of downtown every day. Most haven't returned.

More than 450 downtown retailers, restaurants and other street-level business locations have closed permanently in the 16 months since the pandemic sent office workers home, according to a Downtown Seattle Association survey.

Of the roughly 175,000 people who worked in downtown offices before the pandemic, 80% continue to work remotely, according to association data.

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