

Apple says iPhone supplies hurt by anti-virus curbs in China

November 7 2022



Customers shop at an Apple Store on the first day of sale for the Apple iPhone 14 in Beijing, China on Sept. 16, 2022. Apple Inc. is warning customers will have to wait longer to get its latest iPhone models after anti-virus restrictions were imposed on a contractor's factory in central China. Credit: AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File

Apple Inc. is warning customers they'll have to wait longer to get its latest iPhone models after anti-virus restrictions were imposed on a contractor's factory in central China.

The company announcement Sunday gave no details but said the factory operated by Foxconn in the central city of Zhengzhou is "operating at significantly reduced capacity."

"We now expect lower iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max shipments than we previously anticipated," the company said. "Customers will experience longer wait times to receive their new products."

Foxconn Technology Group said earlier it imposed anti-virus measures on the factory in Zhengzhou following virus outbreaks. Apple and Foxconn previously hadn't responded to questions about how iPhone production might be affected.

Last week, access to the industrial zone where the factory is located was suspended for one week following a surge in infections in Zhengzhou and the departure of workers from the factory.

The lockdown is expected to cause further disruptions to the plant, which in recent weeks has seen a spate of coronavirus infections and an exodus of workers, some of whom fled the factory on foot.

Foxconn said in a statement that it is revising its outlook for this quarter downward due to the lockdown.



Customers line up outside of an Apple Store before its opening on the first day of sale for the Apple iPhone 14 in Beijing, China on Sept. 16, 2022. Apple Inc. is warning customers will have to wait longer to get its latest iPhone models after anti-virus restrictions were imposed on a contractor's factory in central China. Credit: AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File

"Foxconn is now working with the government in a concerted effort to stamp out the pandemic and resume production to its full capacity as quickly as possible," the company said Monday.

It also said that the provincial government has said it will "fully support" Foxconn in managing the plant's pandemic prevention and operation situation.

In a post on the Zhengzhou plant's WeChat social media account Sunday, the company said a "closed loop" system would restrict its employees' travel between their dormitories and the factory area to manage risks of COVID-19 transmission.

The last quarter of the year is typically a busy season for companies like Foxconn as they ramp up production ahead of the end of year holiday rush.

"We are working closely with our supplier to return to normal production levels while ensuring the health and safety of every worker," Apple said.

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