

U.S. providers offer free Wi-Fi for 60 days

15 March 2020



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U.S. internet and wireless providers have announced temporary measures to make getting online less expensive and onerous as enforced social distancing due to the new coronavirus forces more human interaction online.

Most notable is Comcast's free public Wi-Fi for all for 60 days, effective Saturday. Major metropolitan areas are thick with Comcast's Xfinity-branded hotspots.

"I don't get to say this often: Bravo Comcast!" tweeted Alex Stamos, a Stanford University internet security expert.

Home-based Xfinity hotspots are not included, said Comcast spokesman Joel Shadle, but Wi-Fi access points in public locations and at [small businesses](#) are.

AT&T and Charter Communications also announced free public Wi-Fi for 60 days, with Charter offering free broadband for households with students through college age who don't already have a subscription.

Verizon was among the many providers to also announce a moratorium on late fees and

disconnections.

T-Mobile announced that it would provide unlimited smartphone data to all current subscribers and increase the data allowance to schools and students using their digital learning programs.

Cox said it would increase speeds on low-cost broadband plans and Sprint said it would give subscribers unlimited data for 60 days, among other changes. Comcast and AT&T also temporarily lifted data caps.

The announcements followed a plea Thursday to internet providers by Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia and 17 other colleagues in the Senate.

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APA citation: U.S. providers offer free Wi-Fi for 60 days (2020, March 15) retrieved 25 May 2022 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2020-03-free-wi-fi-days.html>

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