

Amazon deleted 1 million items for price gouging or false advertising about coronavirus

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New York (CNN Business) – Amazon says it has pulled more than 1 million products for price gouging or falsely advertising effectiveness against the [coronavirus](#).

The company said in a statement that it has "always required sellers provide accurate information" on product pages and removes those that violates its policies. Amazon said that third-party sellers must follow its Fair Pricing Policy, which states companies can't set a price "significantly higher" than seen in other places or sell an item that "misleads customers."

The removal comes after Wired found sellers gouging the prices of coronavirus-related products, like face masks, or charging people "exorbitant shipping costs," [according to the magazine](#). In one instance, the publication found a seller with face masks for as much as five times their normal price.

"We are disappointed that bad actors are attempting to artificially raise prices on basic need products during a global health crisis and, in line with our long-standing policy, have recently blocked or removed tens of thousands of offers," an Amazon ([AMZN](#)) spokesperson told CNN Business. "We continue to actively monitor our store and remove offers that violate our policies."

Third-party sellers on Amazon have [come under criticism in the past](#) for selling defective or fraudulent products with little oversight.

Fear has also gripped consumers as the coronavirus continues to spread. Major stores, like CVS ([CVS](#)) and Walgreens ([WBA](#)), [warned last week](#) that there might be shortages of disinfectant products like hand sanitizers and cleaning wipes.

There are now more than [88,000 coronavirus cases](#) around the world. It has killed more than 3,000 people, with the vast majority being in mainland China.



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