

CVS spreads same-day prescription deliveries to 36 states

April 4 2019, by Tom Murphy



This Jan. 18, 2017, file photo shows a CVS Pharmacy in Pittsburgh. CVS Health is expanding same-day prescription deliveries nationwide in the latest push by drugstores to keep customers who don't want to wait and are doing more shopping online. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File)

CVS Health is expanding same-day prescription deliveries nationwide in the latest push by drugstores to keep customers who don't want to wait and are doing more shopping online.

The [drugstore](#) chain says it can deliver medications and other products within a few hours to homes or offices from 6,000 locations. The company started this service, which comes with a fee, in late 2017 in New York and expanded it to several cities last year.

Rival Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. also offers same-day deliveries in major cities and plans to expand this year. It has a partnership with FedEx Corp. to provide next-day deliveries as well.

Drugstores have been dealing with competition from online giant Amazon.com, which offers its Prime customers same-day delivery for detergent, toothpaste and 3 million other products nationwide. Amazon also bought last year the online pharmacy PillPack, which provides home deliveries. But the retailer has yet to detail what it plans to do with that business.

CVS and Walgreens built thousands of drugstores nationwide to get closer to customers before online shopping exploded in popularity and started hurting their in-store business. They've since pivoted to adding more [health care services](#) and higher-margin beauty products to their stores while also trying to make their business more inviting to shoppers who buy online without leaving home or work.

Woonsocket, Rhode Island-based CVS Health Corp. said Thursday that customers will be able to order the same-day service through the company's app, or by sending a text or calling the pharmacy. Aside from prescriptions, customers also can have items like cold remedies, vitamins and baby products delivered.

CVS will provide the service through the [delivery](#) company Shipt in 36 states and Washington, D.C. It costs about \$8, or a few more dollars than an option the company also offers nationally to have things delivered in one to two days. For same-day deliveries, orders have to be placed a few

hours before the store closes.

A CVS Health spokeswoman said Shipt will deliver the prescriptions in secure packaging to assure privacy.

Aside from running drugstores, CVS Health also fills more than a billion prescriptions annually for employers, insurers and other clients as one of the nation's biggest pharmacy benefit managers. The company also spent about \$69 billion to buy Aetna, a [health](#) insurer that covers more than 22 million people.

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