



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 04.21.20



Executive Director Update
April 21, 2020

Good afternoon,

News cycles are starting to shift, and some of the general population is getting rather restless. I'd like to stress that this is a time for caution, a second spike in the virus would be devastating to an already stressed food supply chain and to our healthcare workers. As other states begin to amend their stay-at-home rules, we need to be measured and understand what we can do to open the economy without sacrificing public health.

While diagnosed cases rose slightly to 6,951 a 2.8% increase, hospitalizations jumped by 54 back to 427 and deaths rose to 213. We are tracking at a 3% death rate of diagnosed cases. Testing continues to expand, and ultimately the ability to test and track will be the keys to opening the economy.

On to other news and updates...

- **Congress at work:** It appears Washington may be close to a deal on Phase 4 of the COVID-19 relief plan. A vote in the Senate is expected late this afternoon, and the House is expected to vote on Thursday. The basic framework would provide an additional \$310B to the PPP Loan Program (but will the structural fixes be in place is another question), \$75B would be directed to hospitals and other healthcare providers, and \$25B would be set aside for testing. We'll have to wait to see if the revisions to the structure of PPP will be put into place. Details have yet to be released.

- **REMINDER...Industry Impact Survey (For ALL NC BREWERIES):** Please complete this survey regarding the current state of the NC Craft Beer industry (takes approx 10-15 minutes) and submit by 5pm Wednesday (4/22). We need all NC breweries to complete the survey, as it will provide critical information to guide our lobbying efforts on your behalf, as we move into the next phase of this pandemic response. **Take the survey here:** <https://ncbeer.wufoo.com/forms/k1wyxtbn1egh142/>

- **Governor Cooper Press Conference (4/21) Highlights:** Today's press conference covered a few key items for our businesses.
 - New executive order to allow furloughed employees to get unemployment benefits. Will be working with the legislature when they come back on 4/28 to codify the changes.
 - Later this week the Governor expects to make an announcement regarding the current executive orders in place, and if they might be extended and how they will be extended. More later this week.
 - Executive and Legislative Branches are working collaboratively to provide relief to three sectors; Public Health Care, Schools, and Small Business. While details were not forthcoming in this press conference. The proposed approach would be to use the Golden Leaf Foundation to facilitate aid to Small Businesses. Keep an eye on their website www.goldenleaf.org

You've probably read that Georgia is reopening restaurants (not bars or taprooms) on a limited basis, along with some other businesses. NC has been taking a cautious approach and the results have been good, from a community health perspective, albeit very challenging from a business perspective. I am confident we will see a gradual reopening in the coming weeks (assuming trends continue to improve and testing becomes more available). We need you, our brewing community, to complete the survey so we can effectively advocate on your behalf and as move forward. Please [fill out your survey](#). Thanks!

Stay healthy my friends.

And, remember...

- You are on the front lines to help keep your patrons and employees safe and healthy. *Follow the Guidance and Executive Orders!*
- Use common sense in planning and finding ways to market and sell your products.
- Keep perspective, as we are in the midst of a global crisis.
- The faster we stop the spread of the virus the faster we can get back to business.
- Stay focused on what you can control and be ready to adapt.

- And, as always, *take care of each other*, your employees, your customers, and yourselves, as this will be a long and challenging road

Please keep us posted on what is going on either by reaching out to me with your questions, richard@ncbeer.org, or posting consumer related information to promotions@ncbeer.org

UPDATES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/es/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-responses-north-carolina/nc-updates>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.brewersassociation.org/brewing-industry-updates/coronavirus-resource-center>

<https://ncbeer.org/covid-19.php>

