



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 05.01.20



Executive Director Update - May 1, 2020
Coronavirus Information

Good afternoon,

We're back.... I hope you enjoyed your short break from these updates. Numbers released today by NCDHHS show steady increases in testing with nearly 6,000 new tests yesterday. New diagnosed cases rose 414 to 10,923 a decrease over yesterday's report. Hospitalizations remained flat day-over-day, and the death toll rose to 399. By the metrics the state is using the results are mixed, but generally positive.

Patience is wearing thin in NC as it is around the country, but we need to stay the course. On a national basis NC continues to track positively when compared to the rest of the country and particularly versus larger states.

State Legislative Actions:

Yesterday, both the NC House and Senate passed their versions of the COVID-19 Recovery Act. The final senate bill ([S.B. 704](#)) provided for \$1.36B in funding, while the house bill ([H.B. 1043](#)) provided for \$1.7B in funding. Most of the differences in the two bills are related to spending levels, however there are some policy differences as well. The Chairs of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are in negotiations to reconcile the bill and a vote is expected tomorrow. The key differences between the bills are:

- The House provides \$75 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation to fund low-cost small business loans, the Senate would provide \$125 million;

- The House would expand Medicaid temporarily so people making up to twice the poverty rate can be treated for coronavirus-related illnesses. The Senate proposal doesn't; Berger has said that spending going directly to medical providers will help treat the uninsured;
- The House would allow restaurants to sell up to two sealed liquor drinks per takeout or delivery food orders during the coronavirus crisis. The Senate proposal doesn't. Sen. Chaudhuri proposed an amendment on the floor to consider this provision but ultimately withdrew it because there was no consensus among the chamber;
- Both bills would allow the DMV to add six months to the expiration date of any license, permit, registration or other credential. It would waive any fees, fines or penalties for not complying with the old date, and motor vehicle tax payments would also be delayed to the new expiration date. The effective date differs between the two bills: the House version would apply retroactively to licenses and registrations that expired March 10, and the Senate version would apply retroactively to March 1.

Leaders in both the House and Senate indicated these provisions are just the initial response. More legislation will be forthcoming, but the schedule for doing so is pending at this time. It is anticipated that there will be a series of "mini sessions" similar to this one in order to take up more relief actions, with a formal "short" session convening sometime in the late summer.

At a federal level, posturing continues around what a CARES Act II would include. There is nothing meaningful or concrete to report at this time.

Reopening News and Resources:

We continue to move slowly toward realizing the Governor's phased reopening and there is cautious optimism that we will begin Phase I on May 8th. Restaurants and bars are currently slated for Phase II which follows in another two or three weeks beyond Phase I or by the end of May. Again, assuming the contagion stays within what has been deemed a controlled state.

NCDHHS is working to develop guidelines for various business segments so they can understand what will be required to reopen and prepare to meet those requirements. I do not anticipate any surprises as relates to restaurants and taprooms. The recommended measures we have been keeping you informed of to maintain social distancing, improve health and hygiene protocols remain consistent, regardless of the source. To put a finer point on this, our traditional "Public House" open environment will not be an option for the foreseeable future. In that environment it is difficult to maintain social distancing or practice appropriate hygiene/sanitation procedures. As such, we anticipate that taprooms will need to operate more like a restaurant model; meaning assigned seating and wait service for drinks versus walk--up bar service. If you haven't already, begin now to craft your new taproom operations model, using the resources available.

Some background information for your reading pleasure

- From *James Beard Foundation*:

- [The Black Sheep COVID-19 Playbook](#) NOTE: Black Sheep is a Hong Kong Based hospitality group that was founded 2012
- From *NCRLA*:
 - [The North Carolina Restaurant Promise](#)
- From *CDC and OSHA/HHS*:
 - [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- From *Restaurant Business*:
 - [Drafting a new plan for foodservice 2020 and beyond](#) - a webinar

Mental Health:

This pandemic has been a multi-headed monster. Loved ones get sick and some have died. Businesses have closed to protect public health. Many of us maintain isolation and sorely miss visiting with loved ones. There is no cure. There is no timeline that says when this will end. This lack of control and all of the associated unknowns creates high anxiety, stress, and depression. In our **REMEMBER** section we've created a mantra to help keep us focused. It is also important to remember that you are strong enough to stand alone, but smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it.

Please be aware of the many resources available to you and your employees. Whether through an EAP service your company has a contract with, your healthcare provider, or the numerous support groups online, there are a variety of options you can tap into. Mental Health in the Craft Beer Industry was a session at the CBC last year. It is a great presentation, with valuable resources and links posted at the end, that we encourage you to review. You can [access the presentation here](#).

While we are all in different places, we share the bond of working through this crisis in a positive manner. Stay healthy my friends and relax this weekend.

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-response-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>

