



# 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 03.19.20

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### Executive Director Update March 19, 2020

Good afternoon...

Before we start the business update, I want to report... COVID-19 cases grew 40% in the U.S yesterday and by 54% in North Carolina. Additionally, North Carolina has just reported its first case of community spread. The Governor's press conference today highlighted the need to comply with the guidance that has been issued by the state, the CDC and WHO, and that we still have a long way to go..

I know testing has just begun, but the rapid growth shows just how prevalent the virus is in our communities. While this is a financial crisis, more importantly it is a human crisis. It took dramatic and painful action in China to stem the outbreak. Italy (where the death toll just exceeded 3,400) and the rest of Europe are in lockdown now. The quicker we work to stem the virus, the quicker business can return to normal, but with the world as our guide... reprieve is a long way off and I anticipate more draconian measures will be coming. We must be good stewards for the public good in order to get back on the road to recovery as soon as possible. I found this article to be quite powerful... I hope you can find the time to review and watch:

<https://www.today.com/health/italians-send-coronavirus-warning-americans-erie-new-video-t176136>

There has been a lot of confusion around the Governor's executive order and what it means and what specifically is allowed. To that end, there are numerous discussions going on between all impacted business associations and governmental agencies. Below is the latest information available.

- **Serving in Outdoor Seating Areas:**

NCDHHS Section Chief Larry Michael issued internal guidance to their district offices, stating the following: The intent of Executive Order 118 is to limit the congregation of individuals by prohibiting sit-down service in restaurants. Congregation is strongly discouraged to limit the spread of COVID-19. Restaurants are allowed to provide carryout, drive-through and delivery options. Restaurant staff are not permitted to serve patrons indoors or in the outdoor seating area. If a restaurant has outdoor seating, onsite consumption in the outdoor seating area is only permitted for carry-out food, and is subject to mass gathering restrictions and social distancing guidelines. Local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys are generally responsible for enforcement of the Order provisions. Law enforcement officers are authorized to enforce the Order pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(2) and violations are punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.20A.

***Please note:*** THE ABOVE STATEMENT APPLIES TO RESTAURANTS.

Taprooms/Breweries operate under ABC Rules. We are expecting further guidance this afternoon from the ABC regarding outdoor beer consumption.

In the interim, the ABC explicitly states there is to be no consumption in outdoor patios or picnic tables. Until we get formal clarification on this matter, consumption in your outdoor permitted spaces should not occur. We will keep you informed with any additional information as we receive it.

- **Emergency Management Re Entry Passes**

When a disaster is declared or a shelter in place order is in place, your delivery drivers will need an Emergency Management Re-Entry Certificate to enter the restricted area. Each company must request their own passes. We highly recommend you obtain this pass now, so you can continue to deliver to your customers in the event of a lockdown. For detailed instructions for obtaining Re-Entry Certificates [click here](#).

- **President Trump Signs Emergency Relief Package**

Last night, the President signed H.R. 6201 the “Families First Coronavirus Response Emergency Act, which had previously passed the Senate yesterday afternoon. Read further regarding the provisions that this Federal aid package provides here:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/18/817737690/senate-passes-coronavirus-emergency-aid-sending-plan-to-president>

- **Other Legislative and Regulatory :**

- A joint letter was sent to the Governor today from all major industry associations requesting consistency in COVID-19 rulings and restrictions. Counties and cities taking individual unilateral actions only serves to confuse and further complicate an already challenging situation. [Read the letter here.](#)
- The Governor mentioned in his press conference today that they are working with DOR, and will be working with the legislature, to see how there might be some form of tax relief. There were no commitments, but they clearly understand the need.
- We expect Speaker Moore to convene a working group to address the crisis in the coming two weeks. We will be joining other groups in asking for tax and regulatory relief to help conserve and improve cash.

Finally, if you have not yet started this process, it would be a good idea to get with your banker, landlord, and suppliers to discuss your plans. The earlier and more detailed the communications, the easier it will be to create a situation that is beneficial to your company.

That’s all for now. Take care of each other, your employees, your customers, and yourselves. Please keep us posted on what is going on either by reaching out to me with your questions or posting consumer related information to [promotions@ncbeer.org](mailto: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>