



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 03.20.20



Executive Director Update March 20, 2020

Good morning...

We have some significant updates for you this morning - it was a busy evening. However, we remain in a major state of flux. The Governor indicated they will be determining next steps in battling the outbreak this weekend as they watch the numbers in our state. By the way, reporting cases in North Carolina grew 41% yesterday and our first “community spread” related case has brought a new criticality to the situation. It is unlikely schools will reopen at the beginning of April as originally planned, and I am assuming this will be true for us as well.,

As you may have seen, the Governor of California took dramatic action and put the state on lockdown in order to help stop the spread of the virus. That said, we hope to have a clearer picture of what Governor Cooper may do for North Carolina on Monday.

- **Serving in outdoor seating areas clarified:**

The ABC issued their revised guidance last night. Of note, you will not be able to allow people to congregate in your outdoor seating areas to consume beverages or food. The key passages are excerpted below:

From the revised FAQ for EO 118 and Order of Abatement ([click here to read the full document](#)):

*In light of new information today regarding the presence of community spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina, local jurisdictions should enforce the more stringent Order of Abatement of Imminent Hazard issued by the Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, which states that “seating areas of restaurants and bars constitute an imminent hazard for the spread of COVID-19.” Restaurants shall close all seating areas immediately and bars are directed to close immediately. Restaurants are restricted to carry-out, drive-through, and delivery to ensure food is available while maintaining social distancing. Restaurant staff are not permitted to serve patrons indoors or in the outdoor seating area, and all areas of North Carolina are subject to mass gathering restrictions and social distancing guidelines. If a restaurant has outdoor seating, **onsite consumption in the outdoor seating area is not permitted pursuant to the Order of Abatement.***

From the updated ABC Guidance for EO 118 ([click here to read the full document](#)):

The purpose of the Governor’s Executive Order 118 and the NCDHHS Order of Abatement of Imminent Hazard is to reduce the possibility of exposure to Covid-19 through deterrence of gatherings. These guidelines are offered with that goal in mind.

1. All on-premises sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages must stop. (Food is for carry-out, drive-through, and delivery only.) All sales for off-premise consumption of beer and wine must be for carry-out and in “the manufacturer’s original container.” Sit-down service to patrons indoors or in an outdoor seating area is not allowed. G.S. §18B-1001(1) and (3)

2. Only off-premise sales of beer and wine are allowed from establishments with appropriate retail beer or wine permits.

- **Business Leader Meeting:**

Virtually every NC business association leader took part in a conference call late yesterday afternoon with Ken Eudy Senior Advisor to Governor Cooper. Ken reiterated comments from Governor Cooper’s press conference yesterday and emphasized that it was their hope not to have to shelter in place, but we needed to be able to react to protect public health and health workers. The group was consistent in asking for tax relief (sales, payroll, excise), delaying permit renewal fees, and we were able to lobby for essential service status in the event of a shelter in place order.

All-in-all it was an excellent meeting. The business community is organized and the Governor is listening!

- **Families First Emergency Relief Package**

There is a lot contained in the federal relief package. Ward and Smith, PA has produced a concise overview of the legislation. I believe you will find it useful, [read the document here.](#)

- **Consistency Plea to Governor has Impact**

The business community's letter asking for statewide action versus local action to the Governor seems to have made an impact. Mecklenburg County has rescinded their emergency orders and Dare County has backed off of theirs. This is a great step in helping avoid confusion and moving us in the right direction.

- **U.S. Tax Deadline Pushed-Back to July 15, 2020**

Americans will have an additional three months to file their taxes amid the coronavirus pandemic, the US Treasury Secretary said.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-new-tax-deadline-pay-by-july-15-11584576882>

These are difficult times, for our businesses, our families and society as a whole. We do not control any of the situation, but we do control how we react to influence what is ahead of us. The Guild is working closely with the BA at a federal level, and we are banding with the rest of the business community (as well as exerting our voice individually) to help the North Carolina government understand our needs.

We need you, on the front lines, to help keep your patrons and employees safe and healthy. Follow the Guidance and Executive Orders. REMEMBER the faster we stop the spread of the virus the faster we can get back to business. This is going to be a long and challenging road. Keep focused on what you can control and be ready to adapt. As always, 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

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>