



# 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 03.23.20

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### Executive Director Update - March 23, 2020 Coronavirus Information

Good afternoon...

The weekend brought more challenging news as CA, CT, IL, IN, OH, LA, MA, MI, NJ, NY, PA, and WA were placed under shelter in place orders. A total of 23 states have either partial or full shelter in place orders. While the federal government has refrained from doing so formally, the U.S. Surgeon General is now advising all of us to stay at home. In North Carolina, Governor Cooper, with EO 119, ordered child care services essential, limited DMV activities, and called for health care volunteers to help in areas of need. The state created a clearinghouse website so health care volunteers can be placed where needed.

Also, this weekend the federal government designated 16 industry sectors as critical infrastructure. Food & Agriculture is one of the critical industry sectors, and fortunately “beverage manufacturing” is included within this sector. More specifically, the guidelines state;

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products
- Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations - Carry-out and delivery food employees
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.)

facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging

- Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor-managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers

This should bode well for our industry, if and when we are ordered to shelter-in-place.

## ● **NC Business Resources:**

In an attempt to provide you the most concise, easy-to-access information possible, we continue to update our COVID-19 Resource Page daily with relevant guidance and informational links.

Recent additions include:

- Prepared legal guidance from Allied member law firms is posted under either the State or Federal Regulatory & Legislative Guidance sections of the resource list.
- Directory of COVID-19 specific services/products being made available from our Allied Members (Allied Members send information to [jasmine@ncbeer.org](mailto:jasmine@ncbeer.org) for review.)
- [FAQ's Page](#) that is answering many of the common questions we are receiving. Keep sending me your questions to [richard@ncbeer.org](mailto:richard@ncbeer.org) and we'll get them included.

## ● **Letter to the Governor and State Legislators:**

A letter to Governor Cooper requesting his support in naming North Carolina breweries as an essential state service went out today. [Read the letter here](#). I will be sending our request for relief actions under separate cover to both the Governor and leaders of the State House and Senate as soon as it is appropriate given the timing of the federal legislation. It should be within the week. Copies will be made available to you to personalize with your own story and send, as well.

## ● **Governor Cooper Press Briefing (3/23):**

The state continues to tighten its guidance regarding the health crisis.

- Beginning no later than 5PM Wednesday, all Gyms, Spas, Massage Parlors, Theatres, Nail and Hair Salons, and Barber Shops are ordered closed.
- Schools will remain closed through May 15th.
- No gatherings of more than 50 people
- More detailed relief for NC businesses on hold until the federal government approves its relief package.
- Unemployment Claims for the week were 110,000 versus a normal 3,000 the system is taxed, please expect delayed responses.

- Number of cases in North Carolina is now at 297, with over 8,000 tests conducted and thankfully no fatalities.

While we are not under a complete shelter-in-place order, we are very close. Beyond what are obvious essential businesses, the only facilities still open are specialty retailers that do not require close contact or large gatherings, and big box stores. Please note: Many of these retailers are choosing to close to help in the effort to slow the spread of coronavirus. I suspect it will only be a matter of days until we see a formal shelter-in-place order issued.

As always, we need you, 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 for the near term and finding ways to market and sell your products. We are in the midst of a global crisis, let's keep perspective. 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, [richard@ncbeer.org](mailto:richard@ncbeer.org), 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>