



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 03.25.20



Executive Director Update
March 25, 2020

Good afternoon...

The inevitable happened today, North Carolina experienced its first two COVID-19 deaths and cases were at 504, as of this morning. The City of Durham and Buncombe County have issued Stay-at-Home orders and we know that many other cities and counties are getting ready to issue similar guidance statements. Governor Cooper indicated in his press briefing today that the state will also be issuing new guidance soon, though we do not have a timeframe for the new guidance.

There have been many questions about whether beer production is or will be considered essential as we move ever closer to Stay-at-Home orders, and whether our scaled back retail operations will continue to be allowed. Since North Carolina classifies malt beverages as food, it is highly likely our industry will be classified as essential. Fortunately all the local orders issued thus far, have deemed food services and production essential, and we do not see that changing.

In the coming days, we are assuming the Governor will issue state-wide Stay-at-Home guidance as well. We also know that Speaker Tim Moore and the relief task force he has formed is beginning to ramp up (especially now that the federal plan is providing more clarity.) Alex Miller, lobbyist for the Guild, and I will be working with both the legislature and Governor to represent your interests. We will keep you posted on our progress and how you can help.

Congress Relief Bill:

The U.S. Senate has reached an agreement on the third and largest relief bill yet. The bill is expected to be voted on this afternoon. It includes:

- Direct payment of up to \$1,200 for most U.S. Citizens
- Expansion of Unemployment Benefits, on top of state-level benefit expansions
- \$150B in direct relief to States and Local Governments
- \$130B in direct relief to hospitals
- \$367B in support of small business loans
- \$450B in support of industry in general

The size of the bill is unprecedented and approaches \$2T. Once it passes the Senate, it will go to the House and then to the President to sign. Stay tuned.

NC DOR Information:

There has been some action from everyone's favorite state department (DOR), and I suspect more will be forthcoming when Speaker Moore and the Governor work through the ramifications of the COVID-19 relief bill. But as of now, we know the following:

- Annual Excise Tax reporting is still due July 1
- State Income Tax deadline moved to July 15th
- Affected taxpayers with any of the below penalties as a result of COVID-19, should complete Form NC-5500, Request to Waive Penalties. (Note "COVID-19" on the top of form NC-5500):
 - Failing to obtain a license- G.S. 105-236(a)(2);
 - Failing to file a return- G.S. 105-236(a)(3);
 - Failing to pay a tax when due- G.S. 105-236(a)(4);
 - Provide timely informational returns- G.S. 105-236(a)(10)
- There is no guidance regarding sales and use, or excise tax at the time of this writing.

General Business Planning:

- In case you did not hear about it or listen in to the BA's Power hour "Beer in a Time of Disruption". [You can review the presentation here.](#)
- In conjunction with the Power Hour, we have posted an article - "Planning when the Playbook has been thrown out the Window". It is a concise piece that draws from my banker days. [Take a moment to read it here.](#)

The pace of news is going to accelerate. There will be a lot of confusion (if the past is any indicator of the future), and responses will be slower than we like, but we will stay the course. We will work to find you the answers and resources you need to the best of our abilities.

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>