

NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 04.01.20

Executive Director Update

April 1, 2020

Good afternoon,

The situation continues to worsen (as expected), but the good news is North Carolina cases, as a percentage of growth, are slowing. Today, we reported 1,584 versus 1,498 the day before or a gain of 5%. Hopefully we are starting to see a turn, and the pain of Stay-at-Home will pay off in the long run.

Also, on a positive note the state is ramping up efforts to help lessen the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Yesterday provided movement on some much needed relief relative to cash flows and business protections.

NC ABC Commission

The NC ABC Commission has instituted a grace period until June 30, 2020 to pay permit, registration and license fees. For more details go to <https://abc.nc.gov/>

NCDOR Tax Relief

NCDOR has clarified that both Sales & Use, and Excise Taxes are eligible for filing and payment deferral, penalty free until July 15, 2020. **IMPORTANT NOTE: Interest will still accrue and apply to the unpaid tax from the original due date until the tax is paid.** We recommend you discuss this with your tax professional.

[Click here for NCDOR Excise Tax Relief Information](#)

[Click here for NCDOR Penalty Relief Information](#)

EXECUTIVE ORDER 124 - [Read the full Executive Order here.](#)

Yesterday afternoon, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 124, which provides the following additional protections during this emergency period:

With regard to Utility Service Providers (electric, natural gas, water, & wastewater):

- Prohibits utilities from terminating service of a residential customer for non-payment;
- Utility service providers cannot bill for or collect on any fee, charge, penalty or interest resulting from late payment during the effective period of this order;
- Customers shall be provided the opportunity to make reasonable payment arrangements, over a period of at least 6 months, for any arrearages accumulated during the effective period of this order. No interest or late fees will be applied to arrearages accumulated during this period.

With regard to Cable, Telecommunications, Internet Providers:

- Telecommunications, mobile telecommunications, cable, internet, and wi-fi providers are all **urged to** follow the same guidance as utilities have been ordered to adhere to.

Guidance was issued as relates to evictions and foreclosures. Per orders from the Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court, there shall be:

- No **new** eviction proceedings until April 17, 2020 or later if subsequently ordered;
- No **new** rental bonds due during this period.
- Property owners are **encouraged to** cancel any pending evictions, and work with lenders and tenants to implement payment flexibility & payment plans.

Banks and Mortgage Companies have been **urged to** immediately implement the following measures for both residential and business customers who can demonstrate hardship due to COVID-19:

- Waive overdraft fees;
- Extend new credit to creditworthy borrowers at favorable terms (where appropriate);
- Waive late fees;
- Waive ATM fees & increase daily ATM withdrawal limits;
- Waive early withdrawal penalties on timed deposits;
- Cease reporting derogatory information for a period of 90 days;
- Voluntarily work with borrowers impacted by COVID-19 to forbear mortgage payments for at least 180 days without a balloon (ie. lump sum) payment at the end of the period;
- Offer an additional 90 day period to cure and/or complete loan modifications and ensure late payments do not impact the ability to complete such modification.
- Postpone current foreclosures & evictions for at least 90 days.

TTB Tax Payment and Other Filing Due Dates Postponed

From the [TTB Industry Circular, March 31, 2020 Number 2020-2](#)

Summary of Postponed Due Dates

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) recognizes that businesses that we regulate are being severely impacted by COVID-19. To assist these businesses during this period, we are postponing several filing and payment due dates for 90-days where the original due date falls on or after March 1, 2020, through July 1, 2020.

Specifically, we are:

- 1. Postponing tax payment due dates for wine, beer, distilled spirits, tobacco products, cigarette papers and tubes, firearms, and ammunition excise taxes.*
- 2. Postponing filing due dates for excise tax returns.*
- 3. Postponing filing due dates for submission of operational reports.*
- 4. Postponing filing due dates for claims for credit or refund by producers.*
- 5. Postponing filing due dates for claims by manufacturers of nonbeverage products.*
- 6. Postponing due dates for submission of export documentation.*
- 7. Considering emergency variations from regulatory requirements for affected businesses on a case-by-case basis.*
- 8. Reviewing requests for relief from penalties based on reasonable cause.*

TTB will re-evaluate the terms of this immediate relief if circumstances warrant.

Unemployment Claims:

The Governor was asked about the delays and challenges with getting unemployment filed, during his press conference yesterday. As you know, they are swamped - having received more than 300,000 claims in the past two weeks. They are adding staff, have hired an overflow call center, and added a new server in an effort to speed the process. This is a high priority for the state, and they anticipate improvement soon. On a more quantitative note, more than \$3mm in benefits will be paid out this week. While this is very frustrating, please be patient.

A few final points... ***Please remember that these updates are summaries of the day. All included resources, expert commentary and links to valuable websites are archived on the COVID-19 page at www.NCbeer.org.*** Please check the site often for the latest information.

Also, a reminder... Small Batch Standard is hosting a **cash flow webinar** this Thursday, April 2nd at 2pm EST. Registration at:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eE5bobGbRt6FEXWIPX-dnA?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Cash+flow+resources&utm_campaign=%5BS5%5D+Email+4%3A+Cash+Flow+Contingency+Reminder

Last but not least, our very own Audra Gaiziunas will be leading the BA's Power Hour next week, "**Forecasting Cash Flow needs during times of Turbulence**". You can register at: <https://www.brewersassociation.org/events/power-hour-forecasting-cash-flow-needs-during-times-of-turbulence/> North Carolina proud! Can't wait to hear her talk.

So until the next time, stay healthy my friends.

And, 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>