The Commonwealth of Virginia is home to more than 45 distilleries which have distillery store agreements with Virginia ABC to manufacture and sell products on their distillery sites as agents of ABC.

We recognize that the COVID-19 crisis is negatively impacting many of these businesses that provide their unique products to consumers across the commonwealth. With their tasting rooms closed, these Virginia businesses are working hard to maintain operations at even a nominal level. Despite these challenges, many of them have stepped forward to produce hand-sanitizer for their local communities, including Virginia ABC stores.

Virginia ABC is pleased to announce a temporary addendum to these Distillery Store Agreements. For a limited period of time, operating as an agent of Virginia ABC pursuant to a signed and notarized Distillery Store Agreement addendum on file with ABC, these Virginia distillers are authorized to ship their spirits (and any low alcohol beverage coolers manufactured or blended on the licensed premises) to consumers and licensees in Virginia.

These caveats apply:

- No distiller may sell more than six bottles of spirits or two cases of low alcohol beverage coolers to any one consumer or licensee per month.
- Bottles of spirits shipped may be no larger than 1.75 liters.
- The distiller must ensure the recipient is at least 21 years of age.
- Direct shipment must be made by an approved common carrier (currently Federal Express or UPS).
- Signature of an individual 21 years of age or older is required for delivery.

This addendum to the Distillery Store Agreement shall continue as long as Virginia ABC stores are recognized as essential businesses under Governor Northam’s Executive Order 53 and 55 or until further amended, modified or rescinded by the governor.

This temporary addendum to distillery store agreements is one example of many since this crisis where we have provided our licensees with relief from regulatory challenges in areas where we have the authority to do so.

Previous changes by ABC regarding a distillery’s ability to deliver products directly to consumers are permanent and remain in place. This includes delivering products to customers seated in their vehicle on the premises or in the parking lot of the distillery, in addition to delivering products by way of distillery employees or third party services such as Grubhub and Uber Eats.

A list of Virginia’s distillery stores is available on our website at https://www.abc.virginia.gov/stores/distillery-stores.
Originally posted on abc.virginia.gov on April 6.

Be healthy,

Travis Hill, CEO