

Originally posted to abc.virginia.gov on April 1, 2020.



ABC is reopening two stores this week that had been closed due to COVID-19 after following Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for store sanitization and employee quarantine.

Store 278 located at 3333 Virginia Beach Blvd. in Virginia Beach reopens at noon on Wednesday, April 1 following closure March 26 after confirmation that a sales associate had tested positive for COVID-19. The COVID-19 positive employee last worked in the store March 14 and had not returned to work upon feeling ill.

Store 182 located at 1217 West Broad Street in downtown Richmond will reopen at noon on Friday, April 3 following closure March 19 after the roommate of an employee tested positive for COVID-19. The employee has remained at home in quarantine.

In both cases, we responded immediately by closing the stores to ensure the safety of our employees and customers. Further, we contracted with a professional cleaning company to thoroughly deep clean and disinfect these stores including all frequently touched surfaces. We have received additional guidance from VDH that indicates the 14-day quarantine window for employees' possible exposure to the virus has been satisfied this week. We are very grateful that these employees are symptom-free of this virus.

Constant vigilance and quick response are our most effective defense against COVID-19. We ask that all of our employees continue to monitor their health, report illness to their supervisor and self-quarantine if instructed to do so by health care officials.

Due to the expanding nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, all ABC stores across the commonwealth are open from noon to 7 p.m., seven days a week. The reduced operating hours allow staffing flexibility as well as more time for employees to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and stock shelves. Sanitization is critical to keeping the virus from spreading, and we applaud the many Virginia distillers from around the state who have been manufacturing hand sanitizer. ABC whole-heartedly supports their efforts and has purchased these essential products for its stores.

In addition, all stores are limiting the number of customers in the store at one time to no more than 10. Stores have also installed social distancing markers to ensure customers stand at least 6 feet apart from one another. We are also piloting a type of "counter-service" model in some of our stores, keeping customers at the front of the store while ABC employees pull product at their request. During the challenge of COVID-19, we will continue to innovate with dual purposes of safety and service.

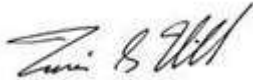
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We recommend customers practice social distancing and reduce time spent in stores by placing their order online at www.abc.virginia.gov.

In the wake of Governor Northam's Stay at Home order this week, we implore all customers and industry partners to follow Virginia Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for personal health and safety. We are laser-focused on developments related to the coronavirus and adhering to all CDC guidelines, as well as federal, state and local directives. The health and safety of our employees and customers is our absolute priority.

Our website continues to be your best source of ABC information related to COVID-19. For more information about Virginia ABC's response to COVID-19, visit <https://www.abc.virginia.gov/covid-19>.

Be healthy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Hill".

Travis Hill, CEO