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For the past 13 weeks, Virginia ABC closely monitored the very fluid situation that is the COVID-19 pandemic. With all of Virginia now in Phase 2 of the reopening plan, and new cases continuing to trend downward, it is time for ABC to move forward in reopening in turn, while maintaining safety measures that have proven to benefit customers and employees.

As of June 15, all stores that were operating under a counter service model (where employees get your products for you) reverted to usual shopping mode, and customers are able to browse the aisles again. Beginning Friday, June 26, store hours will be adjusted. Although a uniform opening time of 12 noon will remain the same for all stores, individual store closing times will revert to normal, pre-pandemic closing times. You can check your local store's adjusted hours by visiting our [store finder page](#).

This does not mean we are taking our foot off the gas when it comes to safety. In Virginia, you are still required to wear a mask or face covering when inside brick and mortar businesses, including our stores. We ask that you continue to practice social distancing inside our stores using the social distancing markers that will remain in place on all store floors. Our employees will continue wearing masks and following enhanced cleaning measures throughout the stores. Hand sanitizer will remain available at all registers, and Plexiglas shields will still separate customers from employees when paying for spirits.

For our licensees, we know that the situation is still far from normal. We understand the need for continued flexibility in ways to sell and serve spirits, wine and beer until circumstances change. The [regulatory changes](#) implemented by our Bureau of Law Enforcement will remain in place for the duration of Executive Order 51, which at present has no expiration date. Should that change, we will be at the ready with updated guidance.

While not related to our COVID-19 response, I also want to acknowledge the difficult but necessary reckoning with systemic racism taking place in our Commonwealth. Racism, in all its forms, must be condemned. Accountability to the community is paramount for effective and fair law enforcement. As an employer, retailer and law enforcement organization, ABC will work to maintain a dialogue that supports equity and inclusion. We will seek a better understanding of one another and our own personal stories through facilitated discussions and a focus on the needs of all our employees. From these conversations will come tangible steps to strengthen ABC as an employer where all individuals are valued as part of our team. We can only fulfill our values of Accountability, Service, Integrity and Performance Excellence if we first have Equity.

Whether a pandemic or greater social change, we will adapt and be part of positive transformation. We will continue to provide updates as we move forward with everyone in the commonwealth.

Be healthy,

Travis Hill, CEO

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