

Originally posted to [abc.virginia.gov](http://abc.virginia.gov) on March 18, 2020



**A message to our Customers and Industry Partners,**

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues in Virginia and across the nation, the health and safety of our extended community continues to be our top priority. We've seen more than 28,000 views of our webpage addressing this virus, and we will continue to share regular business updates here. Our Media Room page also has links to our current news releases we issued.

I've been meeting daily with ABC executive leaders, directors and other key managers to stay on top of this fast-changing issue. Across the commonwealth, ABC employees continue to show up to work to keep our business in operation. Because of this dedication, our warehouse is functioning and our stores remain open.

Many of you are likely aware of the coronavirus outbreak and two subsequent deaths in the Peninsula Health District. Beginning March 20, we will reduce business hours of 24 stores in this area in an effort to limit the possibility of community spread of the virus. This includes stores located in the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and Williamsburg, and the counties of James City and York. We limited public access to our Hampton Regional Enforcement Office until further notice effective March 16.

Starting Friday, these peninsula area stores will be open from noon until 7 p.m., seven days a week, until further notice. Our Retail Division will increase staffing at these stores to offset those employees whose hours may be affected and to ensure stores are prepared to assist customers and licensed businesses during these limited hours. We will evaluate adjusting business hours at other stores should this become necessary.

The law creating the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority deems the exercise of our powers and duties as the performance of an essential governmental function and a matter of public necessity. Our operation impacts citizens throughout the commonwealth and many businesses in the hospitality industry. This status means as long as it is safe for our employees and customers, we are to remain open in some fashion.

Our in-store tasting events and on-site RSVP and MART trainings remain cancelled until further notice. Scheduled informal conferences for licensees with violations continue to take place as scheduled via teleconference, but hearings will be postponed. All application hearings that are currently scheduled will occur.

We continue to update our website with current information on modified regulations we've enacted as a result of COVID-19. The temporary changes we've made to our existing regulations ease delivery criteria, among other things, for manufacturers, wholesalers, distilleries and others.

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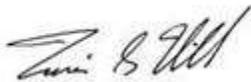
We continue to issue licenses. Individuals and businesses applying for banquet licenses are strongly encouraged to complete the application online to expedite timely processing.

To date, no one at Virginia ABC has been diagnosed with COVID-19, but the coronavirus is impacting all of us. We know we're in for a marathon, and according to what we're learning on a state and national level, things will probably get worse before they get better.

We ask that our licensees and customers aid in following Governor Northam's recommendation to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people and limit visits to ABC stores. Customers can reduce time spent in stores by shopping online at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov). After placing an order, customers can pick up their purchases at their selected store.

We are depending on everyone to get through this crisis together. Practice social distancing. Self-quarantine if you're 65 years of age and older and keep gatherings to 10 or fewer people to limit the possible exposure to the virus.

Be healthy,

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

Travis Hill, CEO