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A message to our Customers and Industry Partners,

As the dynamics of the coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to change, Virginia ABC wants to assure our customers and industry partners that the health and safety of our extended community is our priority.

Right now, prevention is the best measure we can take in response to the threat of the coronavirus. Virginia ABC is following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) guidelines and recommendations to help prevent the spread of the virus.

We're adjusting some of our business practices and practicing social distancing to minimize the possibility of exposure. Our 388 stores and 10 enforcement offices remain open, but we recommend customers call before they come. If employee illnesses prevent us from properly staffing these areas, we may temporarily close some stores or regional offices. These decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Our Richmond central office remains open and our warehouse continues to accept and receive shipments.

Following the Centers for Disease Control's suggestion to practice social distancing, employees who are able to work remotely are being encouraged to do so beginning Monday, March 16. Employees whose jobs require working on-site will follow social distancing practices with customers and co-workers. Additionally, we have cancelled in-store tasting events and on-site RSVP and MART trainings until further notice. Scheduled informal conferences for licensees with violations will take place as scheduled via teleconference, but hearings will be postponed. All application hearings that are currently scheduled will occur.

Licensees are encouraged to visit Virginia ABC's website for current information about modified regulations that will go into effect as a result of COVID-19. Individuals and businesses applying for banquet licenses are strongly encouraged to complete the application online to expedite timely processing.

While we clean our stores every day, we are implementing additional cleaning protocols to assure as safe a shopping environment as possible. Customers can also take advantage of the convenience of shopping online so purchases may be picked up quickly in stores.

The World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic and Governor Northam has declared a state of emergency for Virginia. As the full impact of this disease continues to unfold, we will rely on public health officials' recommendations and make fact-based decisions regarding the regular operation of our business and regulatory activities.

In the meantime, please take every precaution to prevent the spread of germs. Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, cough into your elbow, promptly dispose of used tissues and don't touch your face. If you feel sick, don't go out.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and do all we can to put the health and safety of individuals first.

Be healthy,

Travis Hill, CEO