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ABC has confirmed the first case of COVID-19 among our 3,961 employees who work in our stores, warehouse, regional enforcement office and central office. A sales associate at one of our Virginia Beach stores tested positive for the virus and notified us yesterday.

For the safety of these employees and our customers, we have closed Store 278, located at 3333 Virginia Beach Blvd. until further notice. The store will undergo a thorough deep cleaning and sanitization. Customers will not be able to place online orders for pickup at this store during the closure.

The affected employee last worked March 14 and did not return to the store upon feeling ill. We are reaching out to the employees of this store and will follow guidance from the Virginia Department of Health on what precautions they should take. The employee remains in isolation as advised by health authorities.

As you know, this is the second store we've closed as a result of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, but the first from an employee's positive test. On March 19, in an abundance of caution, we closed Store 182 located at 1217 West Broad Street in downtown Richmond, after the roommate of an employee tested positive for COVID-19. This store is also being professionally cleaned and sanitized.

Today we're introducing revised hours of operation at all ABC stores across the commonwealth. Our stores will be open from noon until 7 p.m., seven days a week. Reducing the time the stores will be open to customers allows staff time to stock shelves, as well as clean and thoroughly disinfect store surfaces to protect employees and customers. Additionally, the limited operating hours enable more flexibility in staffing.

The 3,348 individuals in our retail workforce are each dealing with the impact of COVID-19. We understand the difficulty of this for them and the variety of situations they may face. If employees do not feel comfortable coming to work or are identified as an individual at greater risk of severe illness, they can choose to stay home without facing any negative employment action. As a result, we may temporarily close individual stores because of staffing issues.

We continue to share regular updates with our employees and encouraging them to follow Virginia Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for personal health and safety. We're monitoring 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 top priority.

Our website is your best source of ABC information related to COVID-19. To date, we've had 97,000 visits to our COVID-19 page. This page include links to previous messages about our response to this pandemic. We'll continue to have regular communication about this issue with you.

Be safe this weekend.

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Be healthy,  
Travis Hill, CEO