



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NCCBG Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 05.04.20



Executive Director Update - May 4, 2020
Coronavirus Information

Good afternoon,

The state continues to show progress against its metrics. Testing has continued to increase over the weekend and new cases on a day-over-day basis were flat, with hospitalizations showing some declines and the death toll continuing to remain flat. Currently we stand at 11,848 diagnosed cases with 146,439 tests completed. 498 individuals are hospitalized and the death count now stands at 430.

The State Legislature was busy this weekend, working on finalizing the state COVID-19 Relief response. Listed below are the highlights from their actions this weekend.

State Legislative Actions:

This weekend the NC House and Senate unanimously passed two separate relief bills. The final senate bill ([S.B. 704](#)) covered all policy provisions, while the house bill ([H.B. 1043](#)) provided for appropriating \$1.54B in relief funding. The funding breakout is below:

- provides \$125 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation to fund low-cost small business loans;
- removes Senate provision increasing maximum unemployment benefits in August;
- waives the accrual of interest on an underpayment of tax imposed on a franchise, corporate income, or individual income tax return, including a partnership and estate and trust tax return, from April 15, 2020, through July 15, 2020. The relief from accrual of interest would also include estimated tax payments due on or before April 15, 2020; that would apply to the first and second quarter estimated taxes; also extends certain tax-related administrative and appeals-related deadlines;

- removes the House's provision to partially expand Medicaid to cover COVID-19 treatment costs for people making up to twice the poverty rate, but increases funding for Medicaid overall. Also directs funding to hospitals, which the Senate believed would help to cover treatment costs;
- provides \$65 million to establish the COVID-19 Rural Hospitals Relief Fund. OSBM will allocate the monies in the fund as grants to hospitals designated as critical access hospitals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and to hospitals located in (i) a tier 1 county or (ii) a tier 2 county with a population of less than 150,000. These funds shall be used to off-set expenses incurred for providing patient care in NC to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- provides \$15 million for teaching hospitals: Wake Forest Baptist, Duke University, University of North Carolina, Vidant Medical, and Central Harnett;
- provides \$15 million for general hospital relief fund;
- lays out a study by the NC Area Health Education Center on the state's health care infrastructure relevant to pandemics, including whether the state has enough health care workers to handle surges and the impact on hospitals postponing elective procedures, particularly rural hospitals;
- extend for five months the validity of any credential issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles that expires between March 1, 2020, and before August 1, 2020, would waive fines, fees, and penalties associated with failing to renew an extended credential, and would extend the due date for motor vehicle taxes for extended registrations;
- provides \$300 million to the NC Department of Transportation. This will depend largely on whether federal spending guidelines change and allow for funding replacement due to lost revenue;
- removes House provision allowing restaurants to sell liquor drinks with take-out orders and delivery;
- provides \$5 million to stimulate tourism;
- provides \$75 million for school nutrition;
- provides \$50 million for PPE;
- provides \$300 million for local governments;
- provides \$50 million for rural and underserved communities;
- provides \$25 million provided for testing, tracing and trends;
- provides \$1.8 million to the Old North State Medical Society to focus on African American communities;
- provides \$9 million for rural broadband programs; and
- provides \$19 million through DHHS to help food banks, adult and child protective services, homeless and domestic violence shelters and other programs.

The Governor signed the bills today and all provisions will go into effect immediately.

Next up in the state legislature will be discussions as to how to use the remaining funds received from the federal government. Committees will be meeting over the next two weeks and it is anticipated the "official" short session will commence the week of May 18th.

At a federal level, posturing continues around what a CARES Act II would include. There is nothing meaningful or concrete to report at this time.

TTB Guidance on Destruction of Beer During COVID-19

We've been getting questions on how to handle the destruction of tax paid beer. This [FAQ](#) provides answers directly from the TTB. At a State level, the N.C. Department of Revenue is allowing destruction of unsalable beer without having a Revenue official present. You are encouraged to keep good records including video or photos. You will not be required to remit state excise taxes if you should destroy 50 or more cases of malt beverages

Stay healthy and look after each other!

Remember...

- You are on the front lines to help keep your patrons and employees safe and healthy. Follow the Guidance and Executive Orders!
- Use common sense in planning and finding ways to market and sell your products.
- Keep perspective, as we are in the midst of a global crisis.
- The faster we stop the spread of the virus the faster we can get back to business.
- Stay focused on what you can control and be ready to adapt.
- And, as always, take care of each other, your employees, your customers, and yourselves, as this will be a long and challenging road

Please keep us posted on what is going on either by reaching out to me with your questions, richard@ncbeer.org, or sending consumer related information to promotions@ncbeer.org

UPDATES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/es/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/nc-updates>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.brewersassociation.org/brewing-industry-updates/coronavirus-resource-center/>

<https://ncbeer.org/covid-19.php>

