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A Message to Our Customers and Industry Partners

ABC continues to actively monitor the COVID-19 situation and we're adjusting our business practices to reflect the needs of our customers and partners. On March 12, Governor Northam issued Executive Order (EO) 51, declaring a State of Emergency in Virginia due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

EO 51 authorized us to modify existing ABC regulations for the duration of the order. Our Bureau of Law Enforcement responded immediately by relaxing several licensing regulations to make it easier for businesses with ABC licenses to stay in business.

These adjustments include

- Allowing businesses with strictly on-premise privileges (restaurants, eat-in establishments) to exercise off-premise privileges such as allowing the sale of wine or beer in sealed containers for curbside pickup in a designated area (parking lot, etc.), and delivery of those products to customers' homes without needing a delivery permit.
- Allowing licensees with off-premise privileges, including breweries, farm wineries and wineries to sell products for curbside pickup in a designated area or deliveries to customers' homes without obtaining an additional delivery permit.
- Allowing distillery stores to deliver products to customers seated in their vehicle on the premises or in the parking lot of the distillery.
- Allowing third-party delivery services to deliver wine or beer on behalf of these ABC-licensed businesses that have a written contract specifying the terms.

ABC previously waived the requirement for a signature on deliveries between wholesale and retail licensees, and between retail licensees (under delivery permit) and their customers.

These changes and any other adjustments added will remain in effect so long as Executive Order 51 remains applicable or by extension granted by ABC.

As I've said before, the health and safety of our extended community continues to be our top priority, and we're taking every action we can to help our industry partners stay safely in business. I still meet daily with ABC executive leaders, directors and other key managers. Our employees continue to show up to work to keep our business in operation. Our warehouse is functioning and our stores remain open.

We continue to update our website with current information about this situation. We've seen more than 50,000 views of our webpage addressing this virus in less than a week which tells me that many people are finding our information useful. I encourage you to also check our Media Room page for links to ABC's current news releases.

To date, no Virginia ABC employees have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Yesterday, we learned that the roommate of an employee at Richmond Store 182 tested positive for COVID-19. In an abundance of caution, we closed this store for an expected two weeks so that it may be professionally cleaned. Even though no ABC employees have tested positive for the virus, we have asked employees at this store to self-quarantine for two weeks for the safety of our employees and customers.

We continue to monitor information coming from the Centers for Disease Control, the Virginia Department of Health and Governor Northam's office regarding COVID-19. Future decisions related to ABC store operations will be made with guidance from these official sources and implemented on a case-by-case basis.