



Update on Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) Operating Status during COVID-19 Emergency

As of March 21, 2020

What is our operating status?

The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) remains open. We will continue to provide some services as usual. However, there may be changes to how other services are provided.

How does this impact what we do?

- Licensing - no changes. Applications and payments may continue to be made as normal including in-person but customers are encouraged to do so by postal mail.
 - Please note: The annual license payment deadline of March 31 is now June 1. Licenses, including ABC Manager Licenses, set to expire March 16 through May 31 are now valid through June 1. Licensees do not need to take any action to be eligible for these accommodations.
- Mediations - modified service. No in-person mediations will be conducted until April 2. Parties with meetings scheduled during this period will be contacted by an agency representative with a status update.
- Community Meeting Attendance - suspended. Agency representatives will answer all public questions by email, phone, or in-person at ABRA's office instead of attending or presenting at community meetings, including ANC meetings, until April 27.
- Enforcement - no changes. Compliance with ABC laws will continue to be monitored and appropriate enforcement action will be taken if a licensee violates any law.
- Afterhours Hotline - no changes. Investigators will continue to respond to complaints and inquiries made to the complaint hotline and email daily from 7:00 pm. to 3:00 am.
- Recruitment - modified service. We will continue to post new positions and accept applications. No in-person interviews will take place until April 27.
- FOIA Requests - reduced schedule. Requests will continue to be fulfilled as quickly as possible but the *COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020* has relieved District Government agencies from completing requests within 15 business days.

How does this impact our physical locations?

- ABRA Office (2000 14th Street, Suite 400 South, Washington, DC 20009) - remains open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am. - 4:00 pm.

What else are we offering to meet your needs?

- Digital Offerings - Applications, quick guides, and other resources are available at abra.dc.gov.
- Alcoholic Beverage Carry-Out and Delivery Privileges—ABC-licensed restaurants and taverns are eligible to sell beer, wine, and spirits for carry-out and delivery to patrons who also purchase at least one (1) prepared food item. Advance registration with ABRA is required by law. There is no fee to participate.
- Deadline Extensions - The annual license payment deadline of March 31 has been extended to June 1. Any license, including an ABC Manager License, that is set to expire from March 16 to May 31 is now valid through June 1. Licensees do not need to take any action to be eligible for these accommodations.
- Fines. The deadline for fines due between March 16 to May 31 has been extended to June 1.

What precautions are we taking to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Our employees are taking precautions to keep themselves healthy and limit the spread of infections like regularly washing their hands, cleaning facilities more frequently, and reducing close contact with each other and residents. Employees have been asked to let their supervisor know immediately if they feel sick.

Where should you go if you have questions?

For questions about any of the services we provide and information on any future changes, please contact us at (202) 442-4423 or abra@dc.gov. For more information, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.