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

What is our operating status?

Along with the rest of District government, ABRA remains operational with services available online and by mail while employees work remotely through the duration of the public health emergency.

How does this impact what we do?

- **Licensing** – Modified service. See service enhancements, temporary privileges, and deadline extensions in next section.
- **ABC Board hearings** – Modified. All ABC Board meetings will take place via teleconference through the duration of the public health emergency. Agendas and call-in instructions are posted at abra.dc.gov.
- **Mediations** – Suspended. No in-person mediations will be conducted through the duration of the public health emergency.
- **Protest hearings** – Modified. Protest hearings are scheduled to resume July 8 and will take place via teleconference through the duration of the public health emergency.
- **Community meeting attendance** – Suspended. Agency representatives will answer all public questions by email or phone in lieu of attending or presenting at community meetings, including ANC meetings, through the duration of the public health emergency.
- **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.

How does this impact our physical locations?

- **ABRA's Office** (2000 14th Street NW, Suite 400 South, Washington, DC 20009) is unavailable for in-person services through the duration of the public health emergency. All employees are telecommuting and are available by phone and email during normal business hours of 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.

What else are we offering to meet your needs?

- **Outdoor on-site consumption** – As part of phase one reopening, select licensees may register with ABRA to sell, serve, and allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on new or expanded outdoor public and private space not listed on its license.

- **Carry-out and delivery privileges** – Select licensees can sell beer, wine, and spirits for carry-out and delivery with prepared food either at their (1) licensed establishment or (2) at an additional location. Unique registration with ABRA is required for each option at abra.dc.gov.
- **Licensing** – Service enhancements have been made to allow individuals to submit licenses and make payments remotely.
  - **Applications can be emailed, mailed, or placed in the lobby drop box.**
    - Email | abra@dc.gov
    - Mail and Drop Box | ABRA, 2000 14th Street NW, Suite 400 South, Washington, DC 20009
  - **E-signatures are allowed.**
  - **Self-certification**. Notarization is not required.
  - **Payment by mail or over the phone at (202) 442-4423.**
- **Extensions** – The annual license payment deadline of March 31 has been extended to June 30. Any license that expired on or after March 16 is now valid through June 30. Licensees do not need to take any action to be eligible for these accommodations.
- **Fines** – The deadline for fines due on or after March 16 has been extended to June 30.
- **Digital offerings** – Applications, quick guides, and other resources are available at abra.dc.gov.

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.

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR