



# 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. Applications and payments must be submitted by postal mail to ABRA's office at 2000 14th Street NW, Suite 400 South, Washington, DC 20009.
  - Please note: The annual license payment deadline of March 31 is now June 1. 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** – Suspended. No in-person mediations will be conducted through the duration of the public health emergency.
- **ABC Board Hearings** – Modified. In-person board meetings have transitioned to meetings by teleconference. Agendas and call-in instructions are posted online weekly.
- **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.
- **Recruitment** – Modified service. We will continue to post new positions and accept applications. No in-person interviews will take place through the duration of the public health emergency.

## 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.

## What else are we offering to meet your needs?

- **Digital Offerings** – Applications, quick guides, and other resources are available at [abra.dc.gov](http://abra.dc.gov).
- **Teleconference ABC Board Hearings** – The ABC Board has resumed weekly board meetings on Wednesdays by teleconference. Hearings are open to the public and call-instructions are available online. Transcripts will continue to be posted online approximately two weeks after the hearing date.

- **Alcoholic Beverage Carry-Out and Delivery Privileges** – Select ABC licensees 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, and registration is available online.
- **Deadline Extensions** – The annual license payment deadline of March 31 has been extended to June 1. Any license that is set to expire between 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](mailto:abra@dc.gov). For more information, please visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov).