



March 16, 2020

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT EMAIL IN ITS ENTIRETY

All,

Effective immediately, per [Mayor's Order 2020-048: Prohibition on Mass Gatherings During Public Health Emergency Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), all "mass gatherings" in DC are prohibited.

A mass gathering is considered any event or convening bringing together 50 or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space.

Accordingly, restaurants and taverns must cease table seating effective tonight, Monday, March 16, 2020 at 10:00 p.m. until Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. These establishments may only provide delivery and grab-and-go operations during this period.

Additionally, all venues doing business as nightclubs, multipurpose facilities, health clubs, health spas, massage establishments, and theaters must also suspend operations.

ABRA investigators will start visiting affected ABC licensed establishments this evening to educate and ensure compliance. Failure to comply may result in sanctions or penalties including license suspension and/or revocation.

While these actions are necessary to protect public health, we recognize that they will have a significant financial impact on licensees. To provide temporary financial relief and to encourage social distancing, ABRA has approved the following deadline extensions and delivery of service modifications. They include:

Deadline Extensions

- **Annual License Payments** | Extended from March 31, 2020 to April 30, 2020.
- **Alcohol License Expirations** | Any alcohol licenses, including ABC Manager Licenses that expire March 16-31, 2020 are now valid through April 30, 2020.
- **Fines** | Any fines due between March 16-31, 2020 are now due April 30, 2020.

Delivery of Service Modifications

To date, the District Government remains open and ABRA is maintaining normal business operations and hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. That said, we are temporarily modifying how we deliver select services.

- **Licensing** | While applications and payments may continue to be submitted in-person at our office, we recommend that these materials be mailed or placed in the drop box in our fourth floor lobby. Payment receipts can be emailed or mailed. Since nightclubs and multipurpose facilities must remain closed until further notice, ABRA will not issue any new licenses for these establishment types until operations can resume.
- **Community Presentations** | Invitations to attend or present in-person at community events including ANC meetings are being deferred until April 1, 2020.
- **Mediations** | In-person mediations are suspended. Agency representatives will contact relevant parties regarding alternative options.
- **ABC Board Meetings** | Board meetings will continue to take place but agendas will be limited in scope. Protest and enforcement hearings scheduled for March 18 and March 25 are being rescheduled.
- **FOIA Requests** | Requests will continue to be fulfilled but extensions may be invoked as needed and allowed by DC and federal law.
- **Recruitment** | Open positions will continue to be posted but no in-person interviews will take place.

There will be NO changes to enforcement. Compliance with ABC laws will continue to be monitored and appropriate enforcement action will be taken in response to any violations. Additionally, ABRA's investigators will continue to [respond to complaints reported to the afterhours hotline, online, and by email](#) daily from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

Persons can keep up to date on the coronavirus within the DC area at coronavirus.dc.gov and abra.dc.gov, and by registering with [AlertDC](#).

Kind Regards,

Fred Moosally
Director