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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

April 1, 2020



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DIVISION — COVID-19 RESPONSE

**Closures.** On March 17, 2020, the Governor ordered bars and restaurants throughout the State to no longer allow individuals to consume food and/or beverages on the premises. Food and beverages must be promptly taken from the premises through carryout, drive-through, or delivery during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Any person who knowingly violates the order is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

**Temporary Off-Premises Sales Privileges for Class C Liquor Licensees.** Class C liquor licensees are allowed to sell mixed drinks, cocktails, and margaritas, made on-site for carryout, curbside pickup, drive-through, or home delivery in a container and sealed with a lid until April 7, 2020.

**Golf Courses.** Golf courses that have a Class C liquor license and have designated their course as part of their licensed premises can sell beer, wine, and alcoholic liquor in original, unopened containers. In addition, golf courses holding a Class C liquor license are allowed to sell alcoholic liquor and wine in original, unopened containers for carryout, curbside pickup, drive-through, or home delivery without obtaining an additional license, permit, or privilege.

**Moratorium on Can/Bottle Redemption.** Under the Governor's public health declaration issued on March 17, 2020, retailers who engage in the sale of alcoholic liquor, beer, wine, carbonated beverages, and other beverages on which an Iowa beverage container deposit is made are authorized to stop accepting returns of empty beverage containers until April 16, 2020.

**Production of Hand Sanitizer by Distilled Spirits Permittees.** The Alcoholic Beverages Division (ABD) does not regulate the manufacturing of hand sanitizer as it is not an alcoholic liquor, and therefore does not have any additional requirements or a need to waive any regulations for Iowa liquor manufacturers and native distilleries manufacturing hand sanitizer.

**Alcoholic Beverages Returns.** On-premises retailers that have been impacted by the public health declaration are authorized by the ABD and the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to return alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer in original, unopened containers to the appropriate wholesaler; however, wholesalers are not obligated to accept returns. Retailers are encouraged to seek specific guidance from the ABD regarding returns.

LSA Staff Contact: Angel A. Banks-Adams (515.281.6301) [angel.banks-adams@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:angel.banks-adams@legis.iowa.gov)

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