



J.B. Pritzker, Governor
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Illinois Liquor Control Commission

COVID-19 Related Action

March 16, 2020

COMPLIANCE DIRECTIVE

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the declaration of a national public emergency, federal, state and local public officials have been required to take extraordinary measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Illinois and pursuant to Sections 7(1), 7(2), 7(3) and 7(8) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has issued Executive Order 2020-07 mandating the closure of “all businesses in the State of Illinois that offer food or beverages for on-premises consumption.” ***Executive Order 2020-07, March 16, 2020.***

In consideration of the Governor’s Executive Order, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (“State Commission”) has the responsibility and authority to take necessary actions to protect the “health, safety, and welfare of the People of the State of Illinois. **235 ILCS 5-1-2; 235 ILCS 5/3-12(a)(2); 235 ILCS 5/3-4.** Furthermore, the State Commission has the responsibility and authority to ensure that its license holders abide by all State and Federal laws. **11 Ill. Admin. Code 100.30.**

Under such responsibility and authority, the State Commission hereby issues the following Compliance Directive:

1. All alcoholic liquor license holders shall cease the sale and service of all beverages and food for the consumption on the licensed premises from 9:00 pm on March 16, 2020 through the end of the calendar day on March 30, 2020. Such license holders include: on-premises and combined retailers, brew pubs, distilling pubs, wine-maker premises, all manufacturer class licenses with on-premises retailing privileges, special events retailers, special-use permit holders, and craft distilling tasting permit holders.
2. All license holders authorized by the State Commission and local liquor control commissions to sell alcoholic liquor, non-alcoholic liquor and food at retail for consumption off the licensed premises **may conduct “in-person” sales on a “to go” basis only but not for the consumption on the licensed premises.** License holders that normally have this privilege include: combined (on/off consumption) retailers, off-premises only retailers, brew pubs, distilling pubs, brewers, class 1 brewers, class 2 brewers, class 1 craft distillers, and class 2 craft distillers.

3. Subject to local ordinance, license holders with the authority to sell alcoholic liquor for off-premises consumption may conduct in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through service, curbside pick-up and home delivery. Home deliveries are not permitted for license holders required to make “in-person” packaged sales (e.g. brew pubs, distilling pubs).
4. Licensees may permit patrons to enter licensed establishments to conduct sales for off-premises consumption if the licensees maintain a suitable environment where patrons can maintain adequate social distancing. The CDC recommends social distancing of at least six feet.
5. On-premises liquor license holders for hotels may continue to sell food and beverages via room service, mini-bar, and carry out.
6. On-premises license holders located at airports, hospitals and dining halls in colleges and universities are exempt from the Executive Order.
7. On-premises license holders may continue to sell growlers and crows for off-premises consumption under the conditions set forth for such sales in 235 ILCS 5/6-6.5 and the Executive Order.
8. Beginning March 18, 2020, caterer retailers shall not sell or serve alcoholic liquor or food at private events of fifty (50) or more guests. The return of salable beer from a caterer retailer to a distributor as a result of the policy stated herein is considered an Act of God which authorizes the return of beer under 235 ILCS 5/5-1(o).

Please refer to the State Commission Q/A Guidance for other specific questions related the Governor’s Executive Order.

All agencies with law enforcement authority, including, but not limited to, Illinois Liquor Control Commission, Illinois State Police, Illinois State Fire Marshal, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Local Law Enforcement will issue cease and desist notices to any business violating the terms of the Governor’s Executive Order. License holders found to be in violation of the Executive Order will be required to cease actions which violate the order and will be subjected to further penalties against their liquor license.

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