ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY
ON THE CONTINUED PROHIBITION OF
SELLING ALCOHOL FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION

On May 18, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker issued a plan, Reopening Massachusetts, which provides a four-phase reopening of businesses in the Commonwealth including retail alcohol licensees for on-premises consumption. The text of the Governor’s Plan can be found HERE.

Please be advised that all on-premises consumption licensees remain prohibited from selling alcohol for on-premises consumption to the public until June 8, 2020 at the earliest, awaiting further notice by the Governor. This includes restaurants, bars, hotels, general-on-premises, clubs, war veterans’ clubs, continuing care retirement communities, pub-brewers (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 12 and 19D), farmer-series pouring permits, and manufacturer’s pouring permits (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 19(b), 19B(n), 19C(n), and 19E(o)). These establishments are also prohibited from serving any food or drinks for on-premises consumption; only takeout and delivery are permitted. Please refer to the ABCC’s April 3, 2020, Advisory for how § 12 licensees may sell wine and malt beverages for off-premises consumption during the state of emergency, which can be found HERE.

Please note that this Advisory does not apply to licenses for off-premises consumption, including grocery stores, pharmacies, package stores, direct wine shippers, and farmer-series licensees (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 15, 19B(g)(2), 19C(g)(7), 19E(g)(7), and 19F).

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law. All questions should be directed to the ABCC at (617) 727-3040.

(Issued May 18, 2020)