

COVID-19 - Industry Update 12: April 14, 2020

Greetings to Travel Partners,

With extended Stay-at-Home orders in place for New Hanover County, we remain hopeful that these extra precautionary efforts will hasten the time when it's safe to travel again. Until then, the Wilmington and Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau continues to share the latest updates, resources and research.

Current Update

On April 13, **New Hanover County Commissioners** extended Stay at Home orders through 5pm on April 29. Some modifications were made to restrictions, including the opening of boat ramps, marinas, tennis & pickleball courts. Other enhancements for retail have also been made. Details: <https://news.nhcgov.com/news-rel.../.../stayathomeorderextended>

On April 7, **the New Hanover County ABC Board** issued a policy change for New Hanover County Permittees in response to Governor Cooper's declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 health issue and ABC Compliance Guidelines for Executive Order 118. This policy change allows the return of products by Mixed Beverage permittees based on certain criteria and policies: www.newhanovercountyabc.com/lbd-info.html.

On April 8, **NC Governor Roy Cooper** announced that North Carolina has received approval from FEMA to provide housing alternatives, such as hotels, motels, and dormitories, for North Carolinians with unstable housing who may need to quarantine due to or who are at high-risk from COVID-19:

<https://governor.nc.gov/news/fema-approves-north-carolina-request-stand-shelters-follow-social-distance-guidelines>

Reminder of application deadline this week: **Re-3 Grant Program** (available for businesses in Downtown, Castle Street, Soda Pop, Cargo & South Front districts) application deadline is 4pm, Friday April 17, 2020: www.wilmingtondowntown.com/business/r3.

New Travel Research:

Weekly Coronavirus Impact on Travel Expenditures in the U.S. (April 8, 2020 update): www.ustravel.org/sites/default/files/media_root/document/Coronavirus_WeeklyImpacts_04.08.20.pdf

Longwoods International COVID-19 Travel Sentiment Study–Wave 5 (April 14, 2020): <https://longwoods-intl.com/news-press-release/covid-19-travel-sentiment-study-wave-5>

Destination Analysts Update on Coronavirus' Impact on American Travel (week of April 13,2020) – Americans will approach travel cautiously and differently post-pandemic: www.destinationanalysts.com/update-on-coronavirus-impact-on-american-travel-week-of-april-13/

Smith Travel Research – Hotel Performance Weekly Analysis, 5 Key Points for U.S. & Canada (April 9, 2020): <https://str.com/data-insights-blog/covid-19-webinar-summary-5-key-points-us-canada-9-april>

Below are updates from state and county officials, followed by CVB updates and helpful links.

State of North Carolina Updates:

All COVID-19 Executive Orders: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/executive-orders

N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services COVID-19 updates: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina

New Hanover County Updates:

New Hanover County State of Emergency: https://health.nhcgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3-28-2020_COVID-19_Prohibitions_Restrictions.pdf

New Hanover County additional restrictions: <https://news.nhcgov.com/news-releases/2020/03/new-hanover-county-issues-additional-restrictions-to-help-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19/>.

Stay at Home Order FAQ Sheet: <https://health.nhcgov.com/your-environment/public-health/coronavirus/stay-at-home-order-faqs/>.

New Hanover County Public Health updates: <https://health.nhcgov.com/your-environment/public-health/coronavirus/>

Wilmington and Beaches CVB Update:

Marketing/Communications:

- Developing a virtual National Travel & Tourism Day observance via social media and community/partner outreach based on this year's U.S. Travel Association theme, "Spirit of Travel," that celebrates our loyal visitors and valued hospitality employees.

Ways You Can Assist the CVB:

- Inform CVB of closings, re-openings, occupancy levels and meeting/event cancellations
- Respond to CVB surveys (answers are confidential; we report total percentages, trends)
- Continue to share upcoming virtual events, activities and tours for content consideration. Send details to halmeter@wilmingtonandbeaches.com.

Wilmington and Beaches COVID-19 Resource Pages:

- COVID-19 Hospitality Employer & Employee Information (updated frequently): www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/covid-19-hospitality-resources
- CVB COVID-19 Visitor Information: www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/covid-19-visitor-info
- Virtual Tours and Events: www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/virtual-tours

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESOURCES:

Below, please find some additional COVID-19 resources. To see previously listed resources, please refer to past Industry Updates or you can access a complete list via the Partner Extranet.

LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL ASSISTANCE:

SHARE Cape Fear is a community engagement resource that offers simple ways for neighbors, nonprofits and businesses to come together and strengthen our local community. The website is designed to make it easy for

people to find local nonprofits and engage with them in various ways (donations, volunteering, purchasing needed items from nonprofit wish lists): <https://ShareCapeFear.org>

N.C. Small Business Center Network COVID-19 Resources:

www.ncsbc.net/DocumentMaster.aspx?doc=4577

N.C. Center for Nonprofits – Nonprofit Pandemic Resources:

www.ncnonprofits.org/resources/pandemicresources

Economic Development Partnership of N. C. – NC Business Relief Resources COVID-19:

<https://edpnc.com/covid-19-resources/>

National Restaurant Association Restaurant Employee Relief Fund: <https://rerf.us/>

Airbnb Super Host Relief Fund: www.airbnb.com/superhostrelief

Airbnb Supports Hosts: www.airbnb.com/resources/hosting-homes/a/250m-to-support-hosts-impacted-by-cancellations-165

The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) updated job openings across the state: <https://edpnc.com/north-carolina-immediate-employment-opportunities/>

TRAVEL INDUSTRY UPDATES & RESOURCES

Visit NC is hosting tourism webinars related to COVID-19, including last week’s presentation on Visit NC’s 2020-2021 Co-op Marketing Program, now available online at <http://partners.visitnc.com/COVID-19> and <https://www.visitnc365.com/>.

N.C. Travel Industry Association Newsletter (April 10, 2020): <https://nctia.travel/news.php#Newsletter>

Airbnb Coronavirus Updates: www.airbnb.com/resources/hosting-homes/t/coronavirus-updates-34

Airbnb Extenuating Circumstances Policy due to COVID-

19: www.airbnb.com/help/article/2701/extenuating-circumstances-policy-and-the-coronavirus-covid19

CDC GUIDANCE

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Travel Health (updated frequently): wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel

###

Thank you for keeping the CVB informed. Your feedback is very important and helps us to respond to industry needs and concerns as the situation evolves.

Be well, keep safe and stay tuned