



MEMBER ALERT

March 31, 2020

Dear MPSA members,

Rumors have been widespread during the “Shelter in Place” order issued by the Baker Administration intended to prevent spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. **On March 31, 2020, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker announced the extension of the state's stay-at-home advisory and the executive order requiring all non-essential businesses to now be close through May 4.**

Please know that there is **NO DECISION to close retailers of beer, wine and spirits.** To the Contrary, the Baker Administration is doing everything to keep essential businesses open during the Covid-19 epidemic. **This includes Section 15 licensees of beer, wine and spirits, as they are included in the updated list of guidelines for essential services.**

COVID-19: Essential Services

Food and Agriculture

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail, including farmers markets and farm stands, that sells food and beverage products, **including liquor stores**

It is a daunting job having to balance public safety with economic interests during a health crisis of this magnitude. MPSA applauds Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito for their exemplary leadership and service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MPSA and all our partners within the three-tier system of Massachusetts are also doing everything we can to ensure that stores can safely remain open during this extremely stressful and challenging time. We are also seeking ways that relief can be provided to our Section 12 friends who are experiencing great economic stress and hardship.

Please continue to stay safe and take all reasonable precautions to protect your employees and customers.

Respectfully,

Rob Mellion
Executive Director | General Counsel