

State of Louisiana
Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control

John Bel Edwards
Governor



Juana Marine Lombard
Commissioner

April 8, 2020

**DUE TO COVID-19 (“Coronavirus”)
TOBACCO/VAPE RETAILERS & WHOLESALERS MAY CONTINUE
OPERATION UNDER SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES
(REVISED)**

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, tobacco/vape retailers and wholesalers are not prohibited businesses pursuant to Governor Edwards’ Executive order. These businesses remain subject to Section 2C of Governor’s executive Order¹² and as such may continue to operate under its guidelines. Accordingly, tobacco retailers and vape shops will be required to reduce its operations to only its essential employees and implement policies that minimizes contact with the public including the practice of proper social distancing of six (6) feet of distance from one another. Additionally, no more than ten (10) persons, (including employees) may be allowed on the premises at one time. If possible, businesses are strongly urged to offer curbside or drive through services to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

We understand that this is a challenging time but are urging businesses to consider the health and welfare of their employees and customers as Louisiana is under a state of emergency. Governor Edwards and local leaders have issued proclamations which have the weight of law. It is intended to further restrict social gathering to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Any licensee failing to comply with these proclamations may risk having their permit summarily suspended for endangering the public health, safety, and welfare under LSA. R.S. 49:961(c). We understand the concern and uncertainty you may be experiencing surrounding the coronavirus and remain committed to being responsive to the needs of the public. We will update this policy as the situation evolves.

Should you have any questions or concerns related to this matter, please contact ATC at (225) 925-4041.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juana Lombard".

Juana Lombard
ATC Commissioner

¹ <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/Proclamations/2020/JBE-33-2020.pdf>

² <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/Proclamations/2020/41-JBE-2020-Stay-At-Home-Extended.pdf>