



March/April 2020 Newsletter

NOTE FROM THE TLW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear TLW member,

We are all well aware of the devastation the COVID-19 has caused to our industry. The rules have changed and we have tried to focus on keeping you up to speed on those changes. I am confident the vast majority of our members now know what they can and cannot do regarding their businesses.

Now we want to focus on the support programs available to you and your employees. This edition of our monthly newsletter will provide you information on things like unemployment, government assistance, industry support, etc.

I hope this will prove to be helpful.

Sincerely,

Pete Madland
Executive Director
Tavern League of Wisconsin

HELPFUL LINKS FROM THE TLW RELATING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is hurting not only tavern owners across the state, but also our many dedicated employees that are essential to our operations. TLW is committed to helping our members, and their employees, during this difficult time find the resources they need to survive the business interruption so they can resume their operations once our communities have recovered.

Below you will find various links to help you know how you can remain open, what types of assistance are available to you as a business owner and your employees, as well as what things the TLW is doing to assist you during this difficult time.

MARCH 24TH EMERGENCY ORDER #12 - "SAFER AT HOME"

Governor Evers has issued a new Executive Order requiring all non-essential businesses to close. The order takes effect 8.00 am March 25th through April 24th or until the Governor lifts the order.

- The full [DHS Order](#) can be found here.

The new order allows taverns and restaurants to continue to offer food to be delivered or picked up. The new order also allows a tavern without a food license to sell liquor to go in the original unopened package. It is not legal to sell individual drinks to go like an old fashioned or margarita.

Below is the language taken directly from the Governor's order:

1. Carryout sales of alcohol beverages and food are allowed, if permitted by state law and municipal ordinance.
2. Delivery of alcohol beverages to retail customers is prohibited.
3. Wineries holding direct wine shippers' permits may make deliveries of wine in accordance with their permit.
4. Customers may enter the above establishments only for the purpose of ordering, pick up, and paying for food or beverage or both.
5. No seating may be provided.
6. Food and drink may not be consumed on premises, either indoors or outdoors.
7. Establishments shall meet Social Distancing Requirements between all individuals on the premises to the extent possible.
8. Self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations, and buffets are prohibited.
9. Customers are prohibited from self-dispensing any unpackaged food or beverage.

TLW IS WORKING FOR YOU!

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tavern League of Wisconsin has been in constant contact with the Administration, Legislative Leaders and other stakeholders to provide regulatory, legislative and commercial relief for TLW members.

Here is a list of items we are currently working on, and will communicate more information with you shortly.

- Waive 2020 liquor/beer license fee and all other municipal and state fees for all alcohol/food license holders.
- Initiate a sales tax holiday for all sales at licensed establishments.

- Suspend 15 and 30 credit day law.
- Permit sales of alcohol via phone/online transactions.
- Delay July 2019 local property tax payment for all license holders.
- Provide state credit for 2020 property taxes for license holders.
- Create a state grant program for the hospitality industry employees and owners.
- Provide mortgage/rent relief to delay monthly payments without penalty.
- Business insurance coverage.
- Working with beer/liquor wholesalers regarding inventory buy back as permitted by the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.
- Working with Cable/Satellite Companies to suspend service fees.

WISCONSIN DOR ALCOHOL BEVERAGE GUIDELINES & INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue has issued a proposed guidance document to provide clarification regarding the permissible production, distribution, and sales of alcohol.

- [Click here](#) for the full document from DOR.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation is providing up to \$5 million in grants to help small businesses in Wisconsin offset losses related to COVID-19 response measures. Grants may not exceed \$20,000, and are for companies that have 20 or fewer employees. Other restrictions may apply.

- Click [here](#) to see the press release.
- For more information on the program click [here](#).

In addition, Governor Evers is requesting loan assistance from the US Small Business Association. The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides up to \$2 million in financial assistance to recipients, usually through long-term loans with low interest levels.

- See the request [here](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue has [announced](#) that they are extending the deadline to file state income taxes until July 15th, similar to what the IRS announced previously.

Stay tuned for additional resources. Both the Federal and State Governments are currently working at providing economic relief packages.

TLW - WE'RE OPEN FOR BUSINESS - SURVEY

Tavern League of Wisconsin is gathering information from TLW Members who are open for take-out, delivery and food sales to share with the public.

Please [click here](#) to be directed to the survey to register and tell us if you are using delivery, curbside or to-go service in the next few weeks.

A list of TLW establishment open for business can be found [here](#).

EMPLOYER UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION QUESTIONS?

As an employer, you may be dealing with unemployment compensation questions that you need assistance answering for your employees. For additional information:

- The DWD Handbook for employers can be found [here](#).
- Employers, click [here](#) for a list of phone numbers for specific employer assistance.

TLE EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

Whether you own your own tavern, or work for one of the nearly 5,000 TLW members statewide, we consider you part of the TLW family. When times are tough, families take care of each other the best they can, and the TLW wants our valuable employees to know we are thinking of you in this difficult time as well.

If your employer has shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic, or your hours have been reduced, you may be eligible for unemployment compensation. And while most of the economy has retracted temporarily, there are a number of employers who need temporary assistance during this time period.

Hopefully this period of economic disruption will be limited, and these resources can provide you the assistance you need to bridge the gap. The hospitality industry cannot run without valuable employees like you, and we look forward to your return as soon as possible.

Unemployment Compensation

A note to those looking for financial assistance during these difficult times. If your employer must shut down operations and no work is available, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits if you meet certain criteria. In addition, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, are showing symptoms for COVID-19, or has been quarantined by a medical professional may be available for temporary assistance.

Apply for benefits [here](#).

- Answers to commonly asked UC questions related to COVID-19 can be found [here](#)
- File your weekly claim [here](#)
- The DWD Handbook for claimants can be found [here](#)
- For help using online services or if you are unable to go online call toll-free (844) 910-3661 between 7:35 AM and 3:30 PM on Monday thru Friday.

DWD Job Center

The Department of Workforce Development operates an [online job center](#) where employers can post jobs and job seekers can receive assistance and training looking for jobs that are available.

Temporary Jobs

While many sectors of our economy are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, others that remain open may have an acute need for employees as they are being asked to do more, or they need to temporarily fill the job of an employee who has been asked to remain home due to illness or suspected illness. Below is a list of some employers who may be looking for worker assistance at this time.

- [Amazon](#)
- [Festival Foods](#)
- [Kroger/Pick-n-Save](#)
- [Piggly Wiggly](#)
- [Temporary Distribution Help](#)
- [Wisconsin Assisted Living Association](#)

TLW OFFICE UPDATE

Due to the Governor's Order, the TLW Office is physically closed, but we are still working for you!