<u>**NEWS RELEASE**</u>
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> *"The Mission of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department is to ensure New Mexicans receive quality care and services from qualified professionals".*

Alcoholic Beverage Control Advising Liquor Licensees Amid COVID-19

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department's Alcoholic Beverage Control Division is advising liquor licensees that the New Mexico Department of Health has issued a Public Health Emergency Order, which limits mass gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic.

"We want to ensure that New Mexico liquor establishments are aware of the Order and understand the expectations" said Superintendent Marguerite Salazar. "The health and safety of everyone is the number one priority."

Specifically, the public health order prohibits mass gatherings of 100 or more people in a connected space such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, theater, or other confined space. There are some limited exclusions to the NMDOH order including bars, restaurants, entertainment venues, and other licensed similarly locations. While these venues may remain open and serve customers, they are precluded from holding concerts, DJ'd events, conferences, and other similar happenings until the Public Health Emergency Order is lifted.

"We recognize that this is a hardship on New Mexico licensees, but the health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic mandate these temporary restrictions" said Director Andrew Vallejos.

The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department regulates more than 425,000 individuals and businesses in 35 industries, professions and trades across the state. Its goal is to assure that New Mexicans receive quality services from qualified individuals and businesses while also ensuring fair and prompt administrative process.

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