

# CAMRA COVID-19 briefing

## **CAMRA briefing for local spokespeople on COVID-19**

This briefing sets out how pubs and breweries are affected by COVID-19 and CAMRA's response to the crisis.

Please be aware that when talking to the media in this subject, we need to emphasise delivery services and low-contact ways to support pubs and breweries in line with the current Government guidance around public health and safety.

### **The future of the beer and pub industry**

- It is too early to say how this will affect the industry and drinking habits in the long term. CAMRA's immediate focus is supporting pubs and the people who work in them, through the crisis.
- We want to encourage local residents to support local businesses, pubs and breweries where they can, whilst adhering to the Government guidelines regarding social distancing and public health.
- We are encouraging beer-drinkers and pub-goers to do this by choosing to purchase their beer through local delivery services online using WhatPub or our brewery map, and to consider supporting local pubs currently crowdfunding to stay afloat.
- We also want to see a community of beer drinkers and pub-goers make the most of virtual spaces to combat loneliness during these difficult times, which is why our Facebook group is set up.
- We're calling on the Government to do everything it can to support pubs, brewers and small businesses during this difficult period, and welcome the measures of support already brought in place.
- Despite lobbying from across the beer industry, beer duty payments for the last month were collected from breweries on 25 March – this will have a devastating effect on the finances of breweries and risks their chances of surviving the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Government guidance affecting pubs and breweries**

Please take care to refer to government guidance using the exact wording below – this is to ensure that we are repeating information accurately. Emphasise the effect that the situation will have on consumers, rather than the technicalities of government guidance or planning/licensing legislation.

- All pubs, cafes and restaurants must now remain closed across the UK, apart from takeaway and home delivery services.
- Planning rules have been relaxed temporarily for pubs so that they can operate as hot food takeaways at this time.



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- The UK Government guidance states venues offering takeaway or delivery services can only include alcoholic beverages in this list if their licence already permits it.
- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is new wage cover for any employees on the PAYE tax scheme. Workers which are kept on the payroll but asked not to work will be covered for up to 80% of wages, up to £2,500 a month.
- The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme allows businesses to access government guaranteed loans of up to £5 million interest free for the first 12 months.
- Businesses with fewer than 250 employees will be able to reclaim two weeks of statutory sick pay for employees who are off work because of COVID-19.
- VAT payments for the quarter have been deferred until the end June.
- Businesses with insurance cover for pandemics or government ordered closure should be covered. However, standard business interruption policies will not cover pandemics. Pubs should check their own policies and contact their insurance providers.
- However, despite lobbying from across the beer industry, beer duty payments for the last month was collected from breweries on 25 March – this will have a devastating effect on the finances of breweries and risks their chances of surviving the Covid-19 crisis.

## CAMRA's Response

### Pulling Together Campaign

- CAMRA has partnered with SIBA and Crowdfunder to launch the #PullingTogether campaign, highlighting the ways that the public can help protect pubs, clubs, breweries and tap-rooms from permanent closure.
- We have set up a webpage to promote the campaign: <https://camra.org.uk/pullingtogether/>
- We have also partnered with the fundraising website [www.crowdfunder.co.uk](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk) who have launched "Pay It Forward". This is a campaign for the general public to pay a little now and support the pubs they love while the industry is suffering the worst of the brunt of COVID-19. In return, pubs could offer pints/meals for future redemption. It's easy for landlords/owners to set up, and Crowdfunder are paying all the fees so it's 100% free to do. The main link is here: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/pay-it-forward>
- We know a lot of pub-goers will be missing the social side of going down the pub, so we will be using the hashtag #pullingtogether on social media to take the pub online.
- CAMRA is also concerned about the impact of social isolation and distancing at a time when people need it most, and has also set up an online Facebook group for the public called *Pulling Together for Pubs, Pints & People*, where it is hosting virtual pub quizzes, beer o'clock and other virtual



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events: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pullingtogetherforpubspintsandpeople/>

## Pub initiatives

- CAMRA's WhatPub now lists the services that pubs are still offering. These can be accessed under the "additional services" tab.

## Brewery initiatives

You can also find local breweries running delivery or take out schemes on the map via [www.camra.org.uk/pullingtogether/](http://www.camra.org.uk/pullingtogether/)

## Resources for pubs

- CAMRA has also put together a list of resources for pubs. This includes the guidance from the Government, business support schemes and advice on crowdfunding and setting up delivery services.
- It can be accessed here: [https://camra.org.uk/resource\\_type/covid-19-response/](https://camra.org.uk/resource_type/covid-19-response/)

## Events

- CAMRA has cancelled all beer festivals until the end of June.
- The Conference, AGM and Members Weekend is also cancelled.
- We have also cancelled the Great British Beer Festival that was due to take place in August.

