

March 22, 2020



Chief W. Nim Kidd  
Texas Division of Emergency Management  
P.O. Box 15467  
Austin, Texas 78761

Dear Chief Kidd,

On behalf of the membership of the Texas Whiskey Association, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, and the Texas Distilled Spirits Association, we write to ask for your immediate assistance with our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting demand for alcohol-based sanitizers.

In accordance with FDA and TTB guidance, our members have started producing distilled ethyl-based alcohol— a primary active ingredient for hand and surface sanitizer solutions — due to the overwhelming number of requests from local Fire/EMS, frontline healthcare workers and hospitals in desperate need of these products. They are currently covering the costs of operations, raw materials, logistics support and federal excise taxes themselves.

The participating distilleries are doing a combination of the following activities:

- Distilling high-proof ethanol and compounding the WHO formulations for sanitizers;
- Distilling high-proof ethanol and delivering it to other organizations for compounding;
- Obtaining GNS (Grain Neutral Spirits) and compounding on site; and
- Transferring GNS from the distillery to other organizations for compounding.

At this time we are requesting the following assistance from TDEM:

1. Classify all Texas distilleries, employees and industry association employees as essential businesses in case shelter-in-place orders are issued;
2. Receive and prioritize need requests for compounded sanitizer solutions and/or raw ingredients (ethanol) at a regional level;
3. Provide procurement assistance for raw goods needed for sanitizer production, specifically: *Glycerol (or Glycerine 98%), Hydrogen Peroxide 3% (or at higher percentages for dilution). Isopropyl alcohol (used as a denaturant for the final alcohol product), and Containers (with caps & closures) and bulk totes for storage and distribution; and*
4. Administer financial assistance made available (through centralized procurement or an emergency grant) to distilleries producing ethanol for sanitizer production.

These are unprecedented times and the distilleries of Texas are working to engage the problem in unprecedented ways. We thank you sincerely for the work you are doing to keep our state safe and we urge action on the above items to provide critical assistance to Texas distilleries so that we may continue our efforts.

Sincerely,



Spencer Whelan  
Executive Director — TXWA  
CEO - Texas Whiskey Trail



Dale Syndrowski  
Vice President, Government Relations  
DISCUS



Mike Cameron  
President — TDSA  
Devils River Whiskey



CC: Randy Vivian — Deputy Section Chief, Business Outreach  
Texas Division of Emergency Management