



March 19, 2020

DEALERSHIP INFORMATIONAL ADVISORY **COVID-19 UPDATE #2**

There is an enormous amount of news and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to keep dealers updated, the following is the latest information we have for you. As a reminder, much of the information from AADA Bulletin #1 is still relevant, and please let me know if you did not receive that message. Also, please feel free to forward this Bulletin.

AADA SENDS LETTER TO GOVERNOR ON ESSENTIAL BUSINESS

While there have been no forced business closures in Arkansas, we wanted to be proactive by sending the attached letter to Governor Hutchinson requesting that in the event of a forced business closure that auto dealers be considered "essential businesses." Here is a link to the letter for your review: [AADA Letter to Governor](#)

NADA WEBINAR - TODAY AT NOON

There is an NADA Webinar - "Running a Dealership During a Pandemic: Legal Issues and Federal Mandates" scheduled for today, Thursday, March 19, noon to 1:00 p.m. NADA will conduct a webinar to provide guidance to its member dealers as they confront the Coronavirus pandemic head-on. Labor attorney Rick Warren and NADA staff David Regan and Doug Greenhaus will review key pandemic-related legal issues and mandates for automobile dealerships. There will be a particular focus on COVID-19 issues involving employees, customers, and the business continuity. The presenters also will address new federal legislation being discussed with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. To register for this webinar, click [here](#), and **I strongly recommend joining the webinar no later than 11:45 a.m. to ensure you are able to have one of the limited spots.**

EXPEDITED UI BENEFIT DIRECTED BY GOVERNOR

The Governor announced has directed the Arkansas Department of Commerce to waive the waiting period for Unemployment Benefits. Under current Arkansas law (Ark. Code Ann. §11-10-507(4)), individuals who claim unemployment insurance must wait one week, which is not counted as a week of unemployment. This directive will allow the department to pay claims more quickly. Governor Hutchinson has also directed the Department of Commerce to waive current work-search requirements for 30 days, allowing the unemployed to receive benefits without seeking other employment. This exception applies only to those employed by businesses that are temporarily closed with plans to reopen. In a third action, the Governor has directed the Department of Commerce to allow the unemployed to apply for benefits online or by telephone rather than in person in a further effort to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19.

SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan program has been made available to eligible businesses and private nonprofits that were impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private nonprofit organizations in designated counties of the state (county by county). SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the State to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance. I have some additional information on this process, and will forward it to dealers in a separate message.

FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS ACT

Finally, the U.S. Senate passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act last night. As was reported today this bill is going to have some serious consequences for all Arkansas dealers. As soon as we get more information I will give everyone a full briefing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, we would recommend monitoring updates from the CDC, [link](#), and OSHA, [link](#).

AADA will work to keep you updated on this fluid situation, but a firm commitment to maintaining a safe and clean work environment for your employees and customers will help you navigate this health crisis.

If you have any questions about this bulletin please don't hesitate to call, 501-372-2596, or email Greg Kirkpatrick greg@arkautodealers.com.