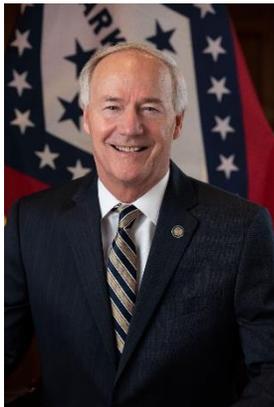




August 28, 2020

DEALERSHIP INFORMATIONAL ADVISORY

## COVID-19 Updates #35



### GOVERNOR EXTENDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Recently, Governor Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-45 extending the public health emergency.

[EO 20-45](#) extended the public emergency another 60-days to October 13, 2020. Included within this Executive Order is mandate requiring every person in Arkansas to wear a face covering over the mouth and nose in all indoor environments where they are exposed to non-household members and distancing of six (6) feet or more cannot be assured, and in all outdoor settings where there is exposure to non-household members, unless there exists ample space of six (6) feet or more to practice physical distancing.

The Governor continues to encourage all Arkansans to work together to mitigate the spread of COVID 19, particularly in light of schools reopening.

It is critical that each dealership remains diligent as we insure safe environments for employees and customers.

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## SEPTEMBER 1 PAYROLL TAX DEFERRAL LOOMING

### Treasury Guidance Is Expected Soon

On August 8, 2020, President Trump issued an executive order that directs the Department of the Treasury to exercise its authority to temporarily suspend the withholding, deposit, and payment of the employees' share of the payroll tax from September 1, 2020 through the end of the year. The order applies to employees who make less than \$104,000 per year.

While Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has stated that the suspension of the payroll tax will be optional, Treasury has not yet issued important details about the payroll tax holiday. NADA will provide additional information after the Treasury guidance is issued.

In the interim, the dealer accounting firm Baker Tilly has provided general [guidance](#) on how it believes dealers should approach the matter.

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## **FTC CHARGES AUTO MARKETER FOR DECEPTIVE MAILERS WITH MISLEADING COVID-19 PAYMENT CLAIMS**

The FTC recently issued an administrative complaint against an automotive marketer and its owner, alleging they deceived consumers with mailers supposedly directing them to obtain federal COVID-19 stimulus benefits and indicating that the customer had won a valuable prize through a matching numbers game.

Recipients of the mailer were told they had to go to the dealership to "claim" the prize. However, small print on the mailer revealed there was only a 1 in 52,000 chance the consumer had actually won the prize specified. Recipients of the mailer were also offered a mock check indicating it was for a COVID-19 auto stimulus.

In addition to the FTC Act violations, the complaint claims the respondents violated the Truth In Lending Act and Regulation Z for failing to clearly disclose required credit information in their advertising. The complaint begins a proceeding in which the allegations will be tried in a formal hearing before an administrative law judge.

[View full FTC press release](#)

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## **REMINDER**

### **DEALERS SHOULD UTILIZE THE NADA CORONAVIRUS HUB**

As a reminder, NADA has produced a tremendous amount of resources to help dealers and their operations during the coronavirus pandemic.

The site and the links will be updated continuously; bookmark the address and click on the links as you need them for the latest versions of everything CARES Act, SBA, PPP, Tax Relief and more. Please check it out here:

<https://www.nada.org/coronavirus/regulatory/>.

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## MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION GETTING A NEW HOME

Director Sandy Stroope announced today that the Motor Vehicle Commission will have new office space starting on Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

As a result of Governor Hutchinson's state agency transformation program enacted during the 2019 Legislative Session, the Commission was moved under the newly created Department of Labor & Licensing. The new address for the Commission will be 900 West Capitol, Suite 400, Little Rock, AR 72201.

According to Director Stroope, the IT team at the Department of Labor and Licensing will move all computers and phones to the new location on August 31, 2020, and while there will be a short disruption in service, the Commission should be up and running on September 1, 2020.

AADA would like to thank Director Stroope and his staff at the Commission for all the hard work during this move and for maintaining consistent service and support for dealers.

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### ADDITIONAL AND HELPFUL LINKS

For additional information related to maintaining your dealership as safe, we would recommend monitoring updates from the [CDC](#), [OSHA](#), and the [Arkansas Department of Health](#).

Please go to our website for links to information your dealership needs at [AADA coronavirus update](#).

AADA will work to keep you updated on this 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](mailto:greg@arkautodealers.com).