

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

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EDITORIAL  
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OPINION

## **Reopen liquor stores**

To date, Pennsylvania is the only state to close all stores that provide consumers with access to distilled spirits. Other states, like Alabama, North Carolina, and Virginia, have used innovative ways to protect consumers and employees while allowing businesses to remain open. Rather than completely shutting down all Fine Wine and Good Spirits stores in Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom Wolf should consider examples from other states. The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Commission, for instance, outlined new guidelines to protect consumers, shifted personnel, and encourages a single employee to retrieve customer products while wearing gloves. In North Carolina, scaled-back hours are under consideration. Distilleries are allowed to sell bottles for off-premise consumption. Virginia stores remain open with reduced hours, and Utah and New Hampshire continue to keep their stores open as well. Wolf should reconsider.

**Chris Swonger**, president and CEO, Distilled Spirits Council, and **Matt Dogall**, president and CEO, American Distilled Spirits Association, Washington