



STAYING HEALTHY AND NOT PAYING SALES TAX IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO



From our Sales Tax Defense LLC Family to yours, we hope that everyone is doing well in these trying times. Please stay safe.

With many businesses slowing down or halting operations temporarily, we wanted to provide you with some sales tax information more closely related to your everyday personal life. Specifically, since the only stores you're probably visiting are restaurants (pick-up or take out) supermarkets, convenience stores and pharmacies, purchases from those types of stores are the most relevant. Only New York State sales tax is discussed below.

The main distinction between taxable food and exempt food is whether it's "prepared food". Prepared foods are food that was prepared by the seller and is ready to be eaten. This is why food from your favorite fast food joint is always taxable but frozen chicken from a grocery store is not. Sandwiches are almost always taxable whether they are hot or cold.

As a side note, an official New York State Tax Bulletin discussing the taxability of sandwiches states, "Sandwiches include cold and hot sandwiches of every kind that are prepared and ready to be eaten, whether made on bread, on bagels, on rolls, in pitas, in wraps, or otherwise, and regardless of the filling or number of layers. A sandwich can be as simple as a buttered bagel or roll, or as elaborate as a six-foot, toasted submarine sandwich." If you ever needed proof that sales tax can be difficult, look no further than a state-issued document saying that a buttered bagel is a sandwich!

Moving on from food, many cosmetics and toiletries are taxable. These items include but are not limited to dental floss, face lotion, hair spray, mascara and shaving cream. However, certain cosmetics and toiletries are exempt if they are for medicinal purposes. For example, shampoo is subject to sales tax unless it's for medicinal purposes. Also, suntan lotions are taxable unless they contain an SPF factor of 2 or greater.

If you paid sales tax on anything you shouldn't have, you can request a refund directly from New York State. Obtaining a refund is not often easy so it may not be worth the effort if the refund is too small. However, if you're entitled to a large refund, it may be worth it.

Covid-19 has put all businesses across the country in situations never imagined that are completely out of our control. If your business has more available time because business is slow or if your business needs a refund to make ends meet while you are waiting on the government to approve assistance loans, now might be a good opportunity to request a sales tax refund. Sales Tax Defense LLC often requests refunds on a contingent basis meaning you don't need to pay us until you receive the refund money from the government.

If you think you may be entitled to a refund, especially if you believe you might be paying more sales tax than necessary, contact us!

SUCCESS STORY



Successfully Staying In Contact With Our Clients

Like many small businesses we are faced with the dilemma of how to service our clients when faced with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Do we close? Do we risk our health and the health of our clients? Do we just work remotely? Do we do nothing?

We have decided based upon available information, and discussions with our staff and our clients that we will not overreact, but we will implement safeguards to protect everyone. Effective immediately, all of our employees will be working a reduced in office schedule which means only going to the office as needed and only going to the office one person at a time. We will be working from home most days to assist with "social distancing." We have the technology which allows everyone's home computer to access the office WITH multiple levels of login security. Emails and voicemail messages are instantly sent to employees' home computers, office laptops and cell phones (once properly logged in).

All employees also have the *option of working exclusively at home*. We ask you, our clients and friends that if you call the office and get our voicemail please leave us a message and we should be getting back to you within a few minutes. And of course, all emails and faxes are instantly forwarded electronically to our staff.

Stay safe, but do not panic. Make the best decisions for your family based upon factual information from the CDC and other reliable sources. Just because your neighbor posted it on Facebook doesn't make it good medical advice or good tax advice...

ABOUT THE FIRM



We are a dedicated team of sales and use tax professionals who have committed our careers to helping businesses and fellow professionals with sales and use tax problems.

Since the only work we are focused on is sales tax consulting, businesses never have to be concerned that we will try to sell them other services they do not need. And professionals never have to be concerned with Sales Tax Defense LLC encroaching on their client relationships, because we view you, our fellow professional, as our client.

WHEN YOU HAVE A SALES TAX PROBLEM, WE ARE THE SOLUTION!

CALL: 631-491-1500

[CONTACT US!](#)

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"Thank you so much for everything. I'm grateful for your help and guidance and will refer you like crazy."

-Deborah, Business Owner

[MORE TESTIMONIALS](#)

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