



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Columbia Distributing and Pursuit Distilling Repurpose Beer into Life-Saving Hand Sanitizer**

**KENT, Washington** – (April 6, 2020) – Keg beer intended for now-shuttered Washington State bars and restaurants is not going to waste, thanks to the collective ideation and partnership between Pursuit Distilling Company and its distribution partner Columbia Distributing. Using the beer and a custom-built keg draining system, the companies have developed a way to create neutral grain spirit for conversion into much-needed denatured alcohol. Denatured alcohol is the primary disinfectant ingredient in American-produced hand sanitizers.

“We’ve created a quick way to drain the beer kegs and then Pursuit distills the beer into neutral grain spirit liquid for use in denatured alcohol,” said Devlin McGill, Senior Director of Spirits at Columbia Distributing. “Our second challenge was delivering that type of alcohol. Fortunately, we found that Columbia already has a network of drivers that are hazmat certified so we can expedite our efforts in getting this essential material for hand sanitizer out to our state agencies. We’re extremely happy that we can help in such a meaningful way right now.”

Columbia and Pursuit expect to have their first delivery to Washington State Department of Agriculture and Washington State Department of Emergency Management by the end of the week.

“I am grateful that we are able to keep our lights on and keep our team members busy,” said Sam Agnew, CEO at Pursuit Distilling. “Our team members have risen to the occasion. I am thankful and blessed to be in a position to pivot quickly to producing hand sanitizer and denatured alcohol for our first responders, health care facilities, and to our local community. We are in unprecedented times. We will get through this time together as a community, country, and individually.”

### **About Pursuit Distilling Co.**

Pursuit Distilling was founded in 2016 by brother-in-laws Sam Agnew and Tyler Teeple on the principles of a 50-year business plan. Pursuit is an Enumclaw-Wash. based distillery producing an ever-expanding family of high-quality spirits. Pursuit’s core principle is to be innovative. We aim to think outside the box. We want to differentiate ourselves in this competitive landscape. Pursuit produces Suspect Flavored Whiskey, Pursuit Vodka, American Single Malt Whiskey, and other delicious spirits. Pursuit is currently distributed throughout Washington and Oregon. For more information on Pursuit, please visit [www.pursuitdistilling.com](http://www.pursuitdistilling.com).

### **About Columbia Distributing**

Since 1935, Columbia Distributing has helped build some of the best-known brands in the beverage business. Today Columbia Distributing and its 3,000+ employees service over 22,000 retail customers covering more than 171,000 square miles in Oregon, Washington and California. Columbia’s success is based on the deep-rooted tradition of delivering quality products, timely service and a genuine concern for customers’ needs. This is achieved by providing ongoing, sustainable opportunities and growth for its employees, customers, suppliers, shareholders and communities. For more information on Columbia Distributing, including employment opportunities, please visit [www.coldist.com](http://www.coldist.com).

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