

Requirements for Restaurants and Bars

In addition to the Healthy at Work [Minimum Requirements](#), restaurants and bars must meet the requirements below to reopen and remain open.

For purposes of these requirements:

- A “restaurant” is an entity that stores, prepares, serves, vends food directly to the consumer or otherwise provides food for human consumption, and must hold a food service permit in good standing and has table seating.
- A “bar” is an entity that stores, prepares, serves, vends alcohol directly to the consumer for on-site human consumption and must hold a service permit in good standing.

Social Distancing Requirements

Restaurants and bars must:

- Limit the number of customers present in any given establishment to 50% of the maximum permitted occupancy or the greatest number that permits individuals not from the same household to maintain six (6) feet of space between each other with that level of occupancy.
- Revise floor plans for seating areas, redesigning seating arrangement to maximize the ability to social distance to the greatest extent practicable.
- Ensure employees wear face masks for any interactions with customers, co-workers, or while in common travel areas of the business (e.g., aisles, hallways, loading docks, breakrooms, bathrooms, entries and exits). Employees are not required to wear face masks while alone in personal offices, while more than six (6) feet from any other individual, or if doing so would pose a serious threat to their health or safety.
- Require employees who operate equipment or vehicles to limit, to the greatest extent practicable, the number of employees riding in the vehicle together. If riding in separate vehicles is not practicable then employees should maximize social distancing and wear face masks in the vehicle. Thorough cleaning and disinfecting vehicles after each trip are required.

Restaurants and bars should:

- Provide food and beverage service via curbside, takeout, and delivery services to the greatest extent practicable, to minimize the number of persons within the establishment and the contacts between them.

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- Consider using a reservations-only business model or call-ahead seating to better space households and individuals.
- Establish a system for limiting entry and tracking occupancy numbers. Once a restaurant has reached its capacity, it should permit a new customer inside only after previous customers have left the premises on a one-to-one basis.
- Establish a safe means for customers to await entry, such as asking customers to remain in their car and notifying them via phone when they are able to enter the restaurant or demarking spots six (6) feet apart where customers can safely stand without congregating.
- Limit party size to ten (10) people or fewer. Persons not living within the same household should not be permitted to sit at the same table.
- Maximize use of outdoor seating while still maintaining six (6) feet of space between customers seated at different tables.
- Promote social distancing by limiting customer movement through the restaurant to the greatest extent practicable. Establishments should inform customers they may travel to entries, exits, and the restroom, unless circumstances (e.g. health and safety) require otherwise. Restaurants/bars should, to the greatest extent practicable, modify the establishment's traffic flow to minimize contacts.
- Modify internal traffic flow to minimize contacts between employees and customers.
- Demarcate six feet of distance between customers and employees, to the greatest extent practicable, except at the moment of payment and/or exchange of food and drink.
- Implement contactless payment options, pickup, and delivery to the greatest extent practicable. Establishments should, to the greatest extent practicable, enable receipts to be completed electronically by using e-signature technology or create a procedure whereby restaurant employees can complete the receipt for the customer within the customer's view.
- Close children's play areas.
- Provide services and conduct business via phone or Internet to the greatest extent practicable. Any employees able to perform their job duties via telework (e.g., accounting staff) should continue to telework.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Requirements

Restaurants and bars must:

- Ensure workstations and seating areas are properly cleaned and ventilated.

- Require employees to frequently wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, which should be provided by the establishment.
- Ensure cleaning and sanitation of frequently touched surfaces with appropriate disinfectants. Areas with frequently touched surfaces or items, include all seating, table-tops, and other table-top items, door handles, phones, pens, and keypads. Appropriate disinfectants include EPA registered household disinfectants, diluted household bleach solution, and alcohol solutions containing at least 60% alcohol. Establishments must establish a cleaning and disinfecting process that follows CDC guidelines when any individual is identified, suspected, or confirmed as a COVID-19 case.
- Ensure employees wipe down their workstations/cash registers with disinfectant at the end of their shift or whenever they stop using their workstations/cash register for a significant period of time.
- Ensure disinfecting wipes or other disinfectant are available near shared equipment (e.g., in kitchen, wait stations, and hostess stations).

Restaurants and bars should:

- Encourage customers to use hand sanitizer prior to dining and immediately following their meal.
- Ensure employees do not use cleaning procedures that could aerosolize infectious particles. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding dry sweeping or use of high-pressure streams of air, water, or cleaning chemicals.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements

Restaurants and bars must:

- Require employees to use face coverings whenever they are near other employees or customers so long as such use does not jeopardize the employees' health or safety. Employers should provide appropriate face coverings at no cost to employees and provide instruction on proper use of them.
- Require contractors, vendors, and drivers to wear face coverings or masks while at the location.
- Ensure employees wash their hands with soap and water and/or use hand sanitizer frequently after any direct contact with customers and when engaging in high touch activities.
- Ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that employees use gloves, along with any PPE normally used for routine tasks, when cleaning equipment, workspaces, and high-touch areas of the business.

Restaurants and bars should/may:

- Establish a policy whether to serve customers who do not adhere to the business's policy on requiring masks while in common areas. While customers will have to remove their masks in order to eat and

- Choose not to serve customers who refuse to wear a mask while away from their booth/table (i.e. entering, exiting, going to the restroom) in order to protect their employees and other customers.
- Train employees to properly dispose of, disinfect, inspect for damage, maintain, and be aware of the limitations of PPE.

Training and Safety Requirements

Restaurants and bars must:

- Post signs at entrance that no one with fever or symptoms of COVID-19 is permitted in the establishment.
- Place conspicuous signs at entrances and throughout the restaurant alerting staff and customers to required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance, policy on face coverings, and good hygiene practices.
- Discontinue self-service drink stations to the greatest extent practicable. If an establishment cannot discontinue self-service drink stations, it must: a) frequently clean and sanitize the stations, b) prohibit customers from bringing their own cup, glass, or mug, c) prohibit refills unless a new cup, glass, or mug is provided to the customer for each refill, and d) remove any unwrapped or non-disposable items (e.g. straws or utensils), as well as fruit (e.g. lemons), sweeteners, creamers, and any condiment containers that are not in single-use, disposable packages.
- Discontinue use of salad bars and other buffet style dining to the greatest extent practicable. If an establishment cannot discontinue buffet style dining, the restaurant must ensure that employees provide buffet service. Restaurants must not permit customer self-service. Restaurants providing buffet service should ensure appropriate sneeze guards are in-place and that employees are equipped with gloves and other PPE as appropriate.

Restaurants and bars should/may:

- Provide hand sanitizer, handwashing facilities, and tissues in convenient locations to the greatest extent practicable.
- Restrict access to common areas, to the greatest extent practicable, to maximize social distancing and reduce congregating. Common areas include, but are not limited to, break rooms, waiting areas, and open areas in bars.
- Install floor decals, when practicable, in cashier and queuing areas to establish safe waiting distance.
- Limit the number of individuals in restrooms to ensure proper social distancing and ensure that frequently touched surfaces are appropriately disinfected (e.g., doorknobs and handles).

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- Stock “grab and go” coolers to more reduced levels to minimize excess touching of items.
- Use disposable menus, napkins, tablecloths, disposable utensils, and condiments to the greatest extent practicable.
- Use, if they choose, linens such as cloth hampers, cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths, and work garments including cloth gloves, in dining establishments consistent with Food service regulations 4-801.11 and 4-802.11. Linens, cloth gloves, and cloth napkins are to be laundered between uses to prevent the transfer of pathogenic microorganisms between foods or to food-contact surfaces.
- Discourage employees from sharing workstations and other work- related items and utensils (e.g., pens and aprons), to the greatest extent practicable.
- Remind third-party delivery drivers and any suppliers of the social distancing requirements.
- Establish procedures for disinfecting tabletops, seating, and dining ware (plates, bowls, utensils).
- Implement, to the extent possible, hours when service can be more safely provided to customers at higher risk for severe illness per [CDC guidelines](#).
- Inform employees they may identify and communicate potential improvements and/or concerns, without fear of retribution, to reduce risk of exposure at the workplace. Education and training should be communicated in a language understood by the individual receiving the education and training.