



How to Dine Out Safely During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

COVID-19 continues to spread in our communities and there are risks any time you gather with others outside your home. As we begin a return to activities like dining out, it is essential that we continue to take steps to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Take a few minutes to consider how to dine out safely — protecting you, your fellow diners and the restaurant staff who serve you. Support NYC’s restaurants — but do it safely!

If you are planning to dine out, follow these tips to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19:

- **Stay home if you do not feel well or are at higher risk of COVID-19 complications.** If you go out when you are sick, you risk getting others sick. If you have an underlying health condition, or are 65 or older, consider staying home to protect yourself.
- **Limit your time waiting.** Make a reservation in advance, look at the menu online before you go, or order while waiting for your table. Doing so will minimize your chance for exposure.
- **Wear a face covering at all times when you are not eating or drinking.** Remember that you can spread COVID-19 even if you do not have symptoms. Wearing a face covering protects the people around you. People who cannot medically tolerate face coverings and children 2 years of age and younger do not need to wear them.
- **Keep your distance!** Stay at least 6 feet away from diners not in your party and from restaurant staff, as much as possible. Be mindful of maintaining distance when waiting to be seated or to use the restroom.
- **Practice healthy hand hygiene.** Use hand sanitizer when entering, just before eating and after leaving the restaurant. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when using the restroom.

To reduce the risk to their customers, restaurants will also be making changes. These include:

- Screening staff for COVID-19 symptoms before their shift and sending them home if sick.
- Making sure staff wear a face covering to protect diners and fellow staff.
- Spacing dining tables so that there is at least 6 feet between dining parties.
- Promoting physical distancing in narrow spaces and areas where lines form (such as bathrooms) by placing tape, signs or other markers to make sure people remain 6 feet apart.
- Placing hand sanitizer in customer areas, such as near entrances and cash registers.
- Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces like faucets, doorknobs and counters.

For general information on COVID-19, including how to guard against stigma, visit nyc.gov/health/coronavirus. For real-time updates, text “COVID” to 692-692. Message and data rates may apply.

To find a testing site near you visit nyc.gov/covidtest or call **311**.