

Physical Distancing Guidelines for Restaurants and Bars

These guidelines are intended to help restaurants and bars understand requirements under current executive orders issued by the Governor and the Mayor.

The Governor's Executive Order of May 22, 2020 allows gatherings of up to 10 people, but **does NOT change current State restrictions on restaurants and bars**. Restaurants and bars are still limited to take-out and delivery.

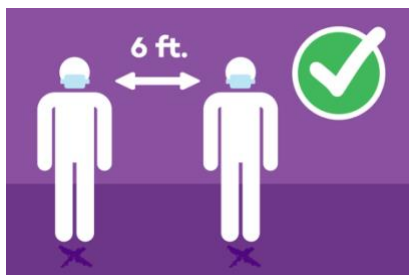
Restaurants and Bars may operate for take-out and delivery ONLY. This means:

- Restaurants and bars **must not** serve food or drinks to be eaten inside of the restaurant or bar.
- Restaurants and bars **must not** place tables, chairs, or benches outside for customers' use unless done so as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability who is waiting in line.
- Restaurants and bars must make sure all food and drinks are sold "to go" and are carried away to discourage people from gathering.

Face coverings and social distancing are required to protect the health of customers and staff.

Physical Distancing

- People should **not** gather in groups inside or outside of restaurants and bars while waiting for take-out or after picking up food and drinks.
- Restaurants and bars should help people maintain an orderly line with people spaced **six feet apart** and discourage gathering.



- It is helpful to make lines on the floor or sidewalk 6 feet apart with tape or chalk to show where people should wait and not block the sidewalk.

Face Coverings

- **Employees** must wear a [face covering](#), unless they cannot do so because of a medical condition. Restaurants and bars must provide face coverings to employees.
- **Customers** must wear a [face covering](#) when they cannot maintain physical distance of 6 feet from other people, unless they cannot wear one because of a medical condition. It is the customer's responsibility to wear a face covering, but restaurants and bars can take steps to encourage customers to do so.
 - Restaurants and bars may require customer face coverings within their premises. However, if they do so they must also **1)** apply and enforce the requirement without discrimination and **2)** make a reasonable accommodation for any person who cannot wear a face covering, if such accommodation can be made without undue hardship (for example, having the customer wait outside and bringing their order to them). Establishments should not request proof of a medical need for an accommodation.
 - Restaurants and bars may post signs reminding people of the face covering requirement, but signs are not required.
 - If a person refuses to follow a restaurant's or bar's rules, including rules on face coverings and physical distancing, the restaurant or bar may ask the person to leave.
 - If an emergency situation or condition arises that might cause danger to life or personal property, the restaurant or bar should call **911**.
- **Reasonable Accommodation:** The NYC Commission on Human Rights has guidance on reasonable accommodations. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/media/covid19.page>)

Enforcement

- Customers must comply with orders issued by the Governor and the Mayor about wearing face coverings and practicing physical distancing. It is not the job of the restaurant or bar to enforce these orders against their customers. However, restaurants and bars can do a lot to promote compliance by taking the steps described above.

Sales of Alcoholic Drinks



- Restaurants and bars may sell alcoholic drinks with food **ONLY**.



- People must follow New York City's Open Container Law, which prohibits drinking alcohol on a sidewalk, in a park, or in other public places. This means no one is allowed to drink alcohol in front of a restaurant or bar.

Thank you for your help during this difficult time. Your work now will help keep New Yorkers healthy by preventing and slowing the spread of COVID-19.

May 24, 2020

Mayor's Office
of Media and
Entertainment

NYC
Office of Nightlife