

Lee County Health Department Guidance 3/17/2020 For Food Establishments in the Wake of Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic

Illinois Governor Pritzker with (COVID-19 executive order no. 5) has ordered the closure of all businesses in the State of Illinois effective on Monday, March 16 at 9 pm until Monday, March 30 that offer food or beverages for on-premises consumption-including restaurants, bars, grocery stores, and food halls-must suspend service for and may not permit on-premises consumption. Such businesses are permitted and encouraged to serve food and beverages so that they may be consumed off-premises, as currently permitted by law, through means such as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, and curbside pick-up. Curbside pickup is defined as: a customer calls in order, drives to the restaurant, parks outside and a runner brings the food to the car. Hotel restaurants may continue to provide room service and carry-out. Catering services may continue.

In addition, if establishments are going to allow patrons to enter the premises to purchase food or beverages for carry-out, they must be able to maintain social distancing of 6' for all employees & patrons. LCHD does not recommend allowing patrons into the facility until the restrictions have been lifted. For establishments that choose to remain open for allowable services, please follow these guidelines to ensure the health and safety of your employees and patrons.

Beginning March 18, 2020, all public and private gatherings in the State of Illinois of 50 people or more are prohibited for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. A public or private gathering includes community, civic, public leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, and any similar event or activity that brings together 50 or more people in a single room or a single space at the same time. This includes venues such as fitness centers/health clubs, bowling alleys, private clubs, and theatres. This does not include venues that provide essential goods or services such as grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies, gas stations, banks/credit unions, and shelters. This order amends Section 1 of EO 2020-04, which prohibited gatherings of 1,0010 people or more.

RECOMMENDED OPERATIONS FOR KEEPING PATRONS & EMPLOYEES SAFE

- Provide the use of drive-thru, curbside pick-up, or delivery. People can wait in their cars and alert restaurant staff by phone.
- Accommodate for the rescheduling for all banquets, events, and reservations.
- When using self-service displays, an employee should serve the patron instead of self-service. This includes gas station self-service stations, grocery store hot deli counters, bakeries and buffet bars, or any other self-service display.
- Reusable containers provided by patrons are not recommended at this time.
- Use individually packed condiments.
- Handle disposable utensils with gloved hand or napkin to prevent the spread of germs.
- Designate one employee for each position to limit contact. For example, one cashier, one person to fulfill orders, and one person to hand out orders through approved options.
- Employees should wear gloves when providing food to patrons and handling money or credit/debit cards. Employees should wash hands frequently.
- Social distance employees. Have employees remain 6' apart from each other whenever possible.



- Disinfect frequently-touched surfaces with a cleaning agent that is effective against coronavirus throughout the day and at close of business. Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces frequently.
- Restaurants have the right and obligation to turn away customers who are exhibiting symptoms of cough, fever, vomiting, or diarrhea.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH & SAFETY

- Screen employees for fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting and diarrhea. You should also be checking their temperature, and if it is over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, they should immediately be sent home. This should happen before the beginning of their shift. Throughout the day employers should keep a close watch for symptoms to appear, as well. If an employee does not pass the screening, they should be sent home. No doctor's note should be required. Let them know if they think they need to go to the Dr. or Emergency Room they should CALL FIRST to get appropriate procedures.
- Instruct all employees to stay home if they are sick, for at least 24 hours after the fever ends, (100°F or lower) without the use of medication. Review your employee health policy and required signed health agreements with all staff.
- Check vomit and diarrhea clean up kit to ensure all supplies are in the kit, and review policy with employees.
- Review the importance of handwashing and the correct handwashing procedure. Remind employees to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds after going to the restroom, after handling soiled equipment, touching money/credit cards/keypads, touching doorknobs, in between customers, and any other task that contaminates their hands. Have plenty of soap, paper towels and Hand sanitizer containing at least 70% alcohol available and easily accessible, and used after proper handwashing.
- Promote behaviors that prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, for employees. Practice correct handwashing and no physical contact between employees and patrons.
- Disinfect frequently-touched surfaces with a cleaning agent that is effect against coronaviruses throughout the day and at close of business. Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces after each use. Sanitize all food-contact surfaces with appropriate sanitizer.

PATRONS WHO MAY LATER BE DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19

- If a patron is diagnosed with COVID-19 after visiting your facility, Lee County Health Department may ask you for contact information for anyone who may have had close contact with the patient.
 - If this occurs, attendees who had close contact with COVID-19 patient will be asked to self-quarantine and monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days.
- For more information about COVID-19 preparedness for businesses, please see the CDC's Resources for Businesses and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>. For general information about COVID-19, refer to the IDPH or CDC Website and the Illinois Restaurant Association.

If your establishment plans to stay open to offer delivery, drive-thru, and curbside pick-up please contact LCHD at (815)284-3371 if you need help with suggestions on how to handle these options to protect the safety of your employees and customers. You can find the entire Executive Order in Response to Covid-19 (COVID-19 Executive Order No.5):

<https://www2.illinois.gov/Documents/ExecOrders/2020/ExecutiveOrder-2020-07.pdf>



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