

Local Requirements for Reopening Outdoor Dining

Created by the Restaurant Association of Maryland
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The Restaurant Association of Maryland suggests that you contact your local health department for clarifications and answers to your questions. Each county is permitted to act independently, therefore your local health department will be the best place for answers.

IMPORTANT NOTES

For large buildings and foodservice establishments that are reopening after closure, the Best Practices to Reopen Restaurants/Bars and the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) guidance recommends flushing building plumbing prior to reopening. See MDE flushing guidance [HERE](#).

Some jurisdictions are still adding/revising their requirements and guidelines. Therefore, some information is subject to change, but this is the best information we can share for now given the short timeframe. We will provide subsequent revisions as necessary.

Cities/towns may have different permitting requirements for outdoor dining than their counties. You should check with appropriate municipal authorities if your business is located within such limits and you are requesting new outdoor dining areas.

In the following local jurisdictions, restaurant/bar outdoor dining is allowed as of 5pm Friday, May 29th

Allegany - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Anne Arundel - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. For those without such permits, the Office of Planning and Zoning will authorize outdoor seating for food and beverage service as a temporary use for up to 180 days, until or unless the emergency is lifted or revised by Executive Order. A permit application is not required for this temporary use if it complies with specific criteria. See criteria and additional information [HERE](#). See additional County info [HERE](#).

Baltimore City - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without such permits must first apply through an expedited process on the City's e-Permits website [HERE](#) beginning Monday, June 1st at 9am.

Baltimore County - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining approval, or those wishing to expand existing outdoor areas, must submit an application for a Temporary Use Permit for Outdoor Table Service. The expedited process for conditional approval can be found [HERE](#). See additional operating details/requirements [HERE](#).

Calvert – Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining as long as they are implementing the specified modifications. Calvert County has some additional approval

processes for businesses requesting new outdoor dining areas. Calvert also requires tables to be 9 feet apart. You should review the information provided [HERE](#) and contact the appropriate local agencies/authorities with any questions as directed.

Caroline – Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Carroll - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas, or wishing to expand existing areas, must submit a simple drawing, outlining the location plan for their outdoor area, to Carroll County Inspector Keith Benfer at dbenfer@carrollcountymd.gov. Questions may be directed to Keith's email or by calling 443-277-0087. See more information in press release [HERE](#).

Cecil - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Charles - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Expansion of an existing outdoor dining area or the creation of a new outdoor dining area requires a Temporary Outside Service Area Permit, which can be applied for through an expedited process [HERE](#).

Dorchester - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Frederick - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. For restaurants/bars without existing outdoor dining areas, County government and the City of Frederick are still working on an expedited permitting process for outdoor dining that will include vetting by the liquor board, health department and other relevant authorities. Additional information is forthcoming.

Garrett - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Harford - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Howard - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Restaurants and bars that do not currently have outdoor seating will receive information on an expedited process in the coming days to accommodate some operations. **PLEASE NOTE that Howard County has additional operating restrictions that should be followed, such as using separate staff for curbside pickup, different employees for bussing tables (not the same wait staff handling food) and dedicated staff for handling payments, among other things. You can view all the details [HERE](#).**

Kent - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining **ONLY IF SPECIFIC CRITERIA ARE MET**, which can be found [HERE](#). Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits. Also note that facilities that were previously closed due to restrictions under previous Executive Orders must contact the Kent County Health Department prior to reopening.

Queen Anne's – Restaurants/bars wishing to provide outdoor dining in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order **MUST FIRST** submit a Restaurant-Bar Outdoor Seating Form-Plan Cover Sheet along with a narrative detailing their overall plan to open within the framework of the guidelines. A general overview can be found [HERE](#). Forms, instructions and detailed requirements/guidelines can be found [HERE](#).

Somerset – Following Governor Hogan's statewide phased reopening plan. No additional information is available.

St. Mary's - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Expansion of an existing outdoor seating area, or the creation of a new outdoor seating area, requires restaurants/bars to submit an application for Temporary Outdoor Seating. That application and additional requirements/guidelines and information can be found [HERE](#).

Talbot - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Washington - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits. See compliance poster [HERE](#).

Wicomico - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Those without existing outdoor dining areas should check with county or municipal authorities (and also Health Department and Liquor Board) regarding any necessary permits.

Worcester - Restaurants/bars with existing outdoor dining areas may reopen for outdoor dining. Expansion of an existing outdoor dining area or the creation of a new outdoor dining area requires a Temporary Outdoor Seating Permit, which can be applied for through an expedited process [HERE](#).

In Montgomery County, restaurant/bar outdoor dining is allowed as of 6am Monday, June 1st.

The County is working to identify streets in downtown areas that could be closed in order to provide more room for outdoor seating for restaurants/bars. See County Press Release details [HERE](#).

In Prince George's County, restaurant/bar outdoor dining is allowed as of 5pm Monday, June 1st.

In addition to the State-required 6-foot distancing between tables and limit of 6 guests per table, Prince George's County limits capacity to no more than 50 guests total in a restaurant/bar outdoor dining area regardless of space. Restaurants/bars must also have hand sanitizer and handwashing facilities available.

See County Executive Order [HERE](#). See additional guidelines and expedited process for applying for the required outdoor table service license at the online Concierge Portal when it is announced (within the next few days we've heard).