



How did the Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) help restaurants and other foodservice businesses during the COVID pandemic?

- Important communications regarding updates on Executive Orders, interpretive guidance and regulations published by the Maryland Department of Health, CDC and others related to COVID-19.
- RAM is the one place to get the correct answers and interpretations on COVID related restrictions and operational guidelines.
- RAM regularly monitors and interprets legislative and regulatory issues in every county and at the state level to provide RAM members with the necessary and correct information needed to make businesses decisions.
- Through RAM's advocacy efforts and robust media campaigns during COVID:
 - Outdoor seating for restaurants was announced by the Governor as part of Phase One, rather than waiting for Phase Two.
 - Restaurants are permitted to sell alcoholic beverages for take out during the COVID state of emergency. RAM also worked with the Maryland General Assembly to introduce and pass a bill that will allow for alcohol beverages for take out to continue once the COVID state of emergency is lifted.
 - Organized and orchestrated media coverage to demonstrate to consumers how restaurants were operating safely during the pandemic and how they were not a source of COVID spread.
 - Changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) were made that actually helped restaurants. At a time when restaurants were most in need of capital, RAM partnered with the National Restaurant Association to secure expanded access to forgivable loans on two occasions and to [refine the program](#) to meet the specific needs of restaurants.
 - RAM convened a group of restaurants and filed lawsuits against three different jurisdictions who were not following the statewide orders and closed restaurants for in person dining during the holidays of 2020.
 - Fought for the use of barriers between booths and tables to help restaurants maximize indoor seating capacity.
 - RAM consistently kept restaurants, and the negative impact of COVID restrictions on restaurants, in the forefront of media coverage that led to State and Local Governments taking action and allocating grant relief funds to restaurants.
 - The [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#) (RRF) is based on the Senate version of the RESTAURANTS Act and the original plan posed by the Association in March 2020. This fund will help the hardest hit small and medium-sized restaurants kickstart their recovery. RAM committed to preparing all eligible restaurant owners to successfully apply for RRF grants.

- [Employee Retention Tax Credits](#) (ERTC) are key tax benefits used by many restaurants. Because of a change pursued by RAM in partnership with the National Restaurant Association, restaurants can now receive up to \$19,000 per eligible employee in ERTC across 2020 and 2021.
- RAM created Maryland Restaurant Week to help drive customers to over 350 participating restaurants. This was the first ever statewide restaurant week and was recognized by Governor Hogan for its importance to the industry.
- Hosted several cooking competitions that included prize money and automatic qualifiers to compete in the World Food Championships.
- RAM employees have over 50 years of combined experience working in the foodservice industry to assist with operational questions and issues

RAM members are foodservice and hospitality operations that include restaurants, bars & taverns, food trucks, grocery stores, caterers, private clubs, hotels and other businesses that serve food. RAM members are dedicated to their employees by offering careers with advancement opportunities, their customers by providing exceptional dining options and service, and their community by supporting local charities, sports teams and events.

Being part of the Restaurant Association of Maryland puts you in elite company.

Become a RAM member today!

For only \$46 a month you can join online here:

<https://www.marylandrestaurants.com/membership.html>

-or-

Call the Restaurant Association of Maryland Membership Team at 1-410-290-6800

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