

General Guide for Restaurants and Dining Establishments

Developed as temporary measures during the COVID-19 pandemic

May 15, 2020

This document is being provided to dining establishments related to outdoor dining. Please be aware this information only applies to the temporary use of outdoor dining. You may utilize the contacts below for any questions you might have. Roanoke County staff is available to provide guidance and help local businesses during this Safer at Home: Phase 1 transition period.



Find additional information concerning the Coronavirus at:
www.roanokecountyva.gov/coronavirus

What Provisions of Executive Orders 51 and 53 Pertain to My Business?

Restaurants, Dining Establishments, Food Courts, Breweries, Microbreweries, Distilleries, Wineries, and Tasting Rooms

Effective 12:00 a.m., Friday, May 15, 2020, restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms may operate delivery, take-out, and outdoor dining and beverage services only, provided such businesses comply with the Guidelines for All Business Sectors, and sector-specific guidance for restaurant and beverage services incorporated by reference herein. Such guidance includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements:

- a.** Occupancy may not exceed the 50% of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy, if applicable.
- b.** No more than 10 patrons may be seated as a party.
- c.** Tables at which dining parties are seated must be positioned six feet apart from other tables. If tables are not movable, parties must be seated at least six feet apart.
- d.** No self-service of food (except beverages), including condiments. Condiments should be removed from tables and dispensed by employees upon the request of a customer. Buffets must be staffed by servers. For self-service beverage areas, use beverage equipment designed to dispense by a contamination-free method.
- e.** Bar seats and congregating areas of restaurants must be closed to patrons except for through-traffic. Non-bar seating in an outdoor bar area may be used for customer seating as long as a minimum of six feet is provided between parties at tables.
- f.** Employees working in customer-facing areas must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth at all times.
- g.** A thorough cleaning and disinfection of frequently contacted surfaces must be conducted every 60 minutes during operation. Tabletops, chairs, and credit card/bill folders must be cleaned in between patrons.
- h.** If any such business cannot adhere to these requirements, it shall not be open to the public. Curbside pickup service may still be provided.

What if I can't find my certificate of occupancy?

If leasing, please call the property owner or original designer of your building plans. Roanoke County Development Services may be able to assist, however please be aware CO's of buildings may not contain the information you are looking for. It is the responsibility of the building owner to post the Certificate of Occupancy. Please call 540-772-2065, EXT 1 for additional information.

What if I want to erect a tent? Do I need a permit?

If the tent is over 900 square feet, a building and fire permit is required. You may call 540-772-2065, EXT 1 or visit: www.roanokecountyva.gov/301/Building-Safety for questions.

If the tent is under 900 square feet, no building permit is required, however, you must contact the Roanoke County Fire Marshal for placement and to verify adequate fire extinguishers. Please contact Brian Simmons at 540-772-8721 for permitting information.

If erecting smaller tents, do not block entrances to buildings or drive aisles. In addition, be aware of the location of the fire lanes. Erecting tents or tables within Fire Lanes are prohibited. Revised seating may not block exit doors of the building.

How do I contact the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority regarding serving alcohol outside?

Please call for relaxed regulations as they pertain to your establishment. This includes the use of tables and chairs in other locations on your property.

Contact: 804-132-4565 or enforcement@abc.virginia.gov

How do I contact the Health Department regarding compliance and enforcement for reopening my business?

Call Center: 1-855-949-8378

Additional Best Zoning Practices

Total number of tables used may not increase. Existing indoor tables may be relocated outside.

Be aware of providing adequate parking spaces per number of tables. Blocking handicap spaces is prohibited.

**For any additional questions or concerns, please contact:
Rebecca James, Roanoke County Zoning Administrator, at 540-772-2134**

**ROCOOPENS
PHASE 1**