

Starting Thursday, October 1:

- Restaurants can expand indoor occupancy to 40%.
- The limit of 50 total customers within one room or space at restaurants, venues and other establishments will remain in place, as will the limit of no more than six people per table.
- Indoor liquor sales at restaurants and bars are extended to 1:00 a.m., and hours of operation are extended until 1:30 a.m.
- Liquor stores, grocery stores and other establishments that sell alcohol to-go through a Packaged Goods license must continue to cease alcohol sales at 9:00 p.m.
- Bars and tavern licensees without a retail food license may reopen for indoor service at 25% occupancy or 50 people, whichever is fewer.
- Service remains limited to no more than two hours per party, and customers must be seated when eating, drinking or ordering – patrons cannot walk up to the bar to order.
- Bars, taverns and breweries that are reopening indoors must partner with a food establishment so that food is available to patrons at all times (e.g., making menus available and allowing delivery, allowing patrons to order from third-party delivery services).
- When dining out at a food service establishment or bar, customers must always wear face coverings while seated, except when actively eating or drinking.
- This protects employees that may interact closely with patrons.
- Tock will offer a free set-up and six-month subscription to Tock Plus Lite for restaurants and bars without a reservation system in areas of the city below 60% of the Area Median Income.

This announcement is the result of months of persistent advocacy from the IRA in order to give restaurants and bars the opportunity to serve more people in a smart and safe way on a daily basis. By strictly following face covering requirements, social distancing, enhanced sanitizing standards, and more, Chicago's restaurants have collectively worked to affirm that they are [serving diners safely](#) - then, now, and always.

These announcements are constructive steps in the right direction that will allow more restaurants and bars to keep their doors open and provide jobs to thousands of Chicagoans. We will continue to work toward all forms of legislative and regulatory relief for the hospitality industry at the local, state, and [federal levels](#). Please contact your Congressional leaders so your voice can be heard!

The IRA commends Mayor Lightfoot and her team for their constant collaboration and communication with our restaurant community during COVID-19. We look forward to continuing to work with the Mayor, aldermen, and public health experts to keep Chicago's hospitality industry on a steady path to recovery.

Read more:

- [Crain's Chicago](#) - Chicago's bars, restaurants and gyms can welcome more customers beginning this week

- [Chicago Tribune](#) - Mayor Lori Lightfoot easing Chicago restrictions on indoor bars, restaurants, fitness class sizes
- [Block Club Chicago](#) - Coronavirus Restrictions Being Eased In Chicago: Bars Can Serve Inside Again, Restaurants Can Be 40 Percent
- [CBS 2](#) - Mayor Lori Lightfoot Easing COVID Restrictions On Bars, Restaurants, Fitness Centers, Personal Services

The city of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) will host two webinars for local businesses to review the updated opening guidelines on Tuesday, September 29 at 3:00 p.m. and Wednesday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m. [Click here for more information.](#)

[Click here to review the current Phase IV guidelines for restaurants in the city of Chicago.](#)

Expanded Outdoor Service Opportunities for Bars

The city of Chicago has announced an expansion of its Outdoor Dining Program. The new reforms will make it easier for bars, taverns and breweries affected by the latest rollback of the reopening guidelines to operate outdoors.

Effective immediately, individual establishments that serve alcohol without a Retail Food License may apply to use this program to temporarily operate on the sidewalk in front of their establishment, and all restaurants and bars may use the permit in outdoor areas that would typically require an Outdoor Patio License.

The requirements of the new program include:

- Setting up sidewalk space with six feet of pedestrian clearance
- Enclosing service areas with a barrier
- Partnering with a food establishment to ensure that food is available for patrons if the liquor establishment does not have a Retail Food License

To learn more about the Expanded Outdoor Dining Permit and to apply, [click here](#).

[Click here to view the full press release.](#)

Additional Operational Guidelines for Restaurants and Bars

Workplace/Health Regulations

- [What to Do if a Confirmed COVID-19 Case Has Been in Your Facility](#)
- [Emergency Travel Order FAQ](#)
- [CDPH COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- Chicago COVID-19 Testing Locations
- [Paid Sick Leave, Worker Protections During COVID-19](#)
- [Employer Anti-Retaliation Ordinance](#)

- [Federal Paid Sick Leave Law - Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)

Outdoor Dining

- [Phase IV - Indoor and Outdoor Dining Guidelines](#)
- [Sidewalk Cafe Reforms](#)
- [How to Obtain a Sidewalk Cafe Permit](#)
- [Outdoor Dining, Sidewalk Cafe FAQ](#)
- [Guidance on Tents for Outdoor Dining](#)
- [Expanded Outdoor Dining Application](#)
- [Expanded Outdoor Dining FAQ](#)
- [Expanded Outdoor Dining Do's and Don'ts](#)

Alcohol Regulations

- [Cocktails to Go Regulations](#)
- [Required Posting - 11:00 p.m. End Time of On-Premises Liquor Sales](#)
- [Illinois Liquor Control Commission FAQs](#)