



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
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**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY REGARDING
UPDATED SECTOR SPECIFIC WORKPLACE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR
RESTAURANTS TO ADDRESS COVID-19**

On September 22, 2020, Governor Baker updated the Sector Specific Workplace Safety Standards for Restaurants to Address Covid-19. The text of the updated safety standards may be found [HERE](#).

Licensees are reminded that until Phase IV commences, all licensees for the sale of alcoholic beverages for on- premises consumption must provide seated food service with the sale of alcohol. The food must be prepared on- site and under a retail food permit issued by a local licensing authority pursuant to 105 CMR 590.00.

Beginning Monday, September 28, 2020, pursuant to the updated safety standards for restaurants, Licensees may:

- Provide bar seating to patrons provided that either:
 - a. There are no active work areas or working staff behind the bar are at least 6 feet away; or
 - b. There is a physical barrier (e.g. Plexiglas) separating customers from the bar space that is at least 30 inches high and a gap/ opening at the bottom of the barrier is allowed for food and drink service as long as the gap/ opening is no more than 8 inches high.
- Allow parties of up to 10 individuals to sit together at a table.
- Open recreation amenities which are allowed to open in Step 1 of Phase III (such as arcade games) if all safety protocols in the Arcades & Other Indoor & Outdoor Game & Recreation Businesses are adhered to, including the requirement that active use of pool tables and other games involving patrons not seated at tables is not permitted in areas where food service is provided.

The updated safety standards for restaurants further require that:

- Customers being served at the bar must remain seated. Service to standing customers is prohibited.
- Parties must be spaced at least 6 feet from other parties.
- Subject to any applicable building and fire code requirements, bar areas may be reconfigured to accommodate table seating that complies with all spacing and other requirements in these COVID-19 safety standards. Tables must not be placed within 6 feet of the staffed bartending area.
- Laminated reusable menus must be sanitized between each use.

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law. All questions should be directed to ABCC Executive Director Ralph Sacramone at rsacramone@tre.state.ma.us or (617) 727-3040 ext. 731.

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