



May 20, 2020

To: St. Mary's County Food Service Facilities

Re: COVID-19 Reopening Guidance and Recommendations

Thank you for your incredible sacrifice and patience as your business operations were altered or put on hold for the current COVID-19 pandemic. As we prepare to move into the multiple phases of reopening local businesses, the St. Mary's County Health Department wants to ensure all of our establishments have clear guidance on steps to open and operate their facilities safely.

The following provides guidance **for the time when such actions are allowable by state or local orders. This is only guidance and should not be misconstrued as an approval to reopen.**

These guidelines and recommendations have been developed by the National Restaurant Association and align with the FDA's *Best Practices for Retail Food Stores, Restaurants, and Food Pick-Up/Delivery Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic* guide.

As Maryland moves into each "Stage" of economic recovery outlined in Governor Hogan's [Roadmap to Recovery](#), there are multiple phases within each stage and local/regional specifications to consider. At this time please note:

St. Mary's County residents and visitors should continue to wear face coverings or masks in indoor public places where they are exposed to others, including in retail locations and public transit.

St. Mary's County residents and visitors should continue to practice physical social distancing of 6 feet or more.

Restaurants and Bars – Reopening Preparation, Outdoor Seating Only

Restaurants and Bars *with* Outdoor Seating may be allowed to reopen for customers seated in these outdoor spaces when allowed by state or local order. If you are interested in applying for a temporary expansion of your outdoor seating, please submit the attached application for consideration.

Restaurants and Bars *without* Outdoor Seating, when allowed to reopen by state or local order may reopen for customers seated in an approved temporary outdoor setting and would need to submit the attached application for consideration.

If a State Executive Order allows reopening of restaurants at full capacity, the request to create or expand outdoor seating will require a different set of application review parameters.

Outdoor seating may provide for an environment with lower risk of coronavirus disease transmission for employees and customers.

Arrange and encourage curbside pick-up, drive-thru, and/or delivery options for your food service facility.

Additional Considerations for when Outdoor Seating is allowed:

- Employees interacting with customers should continue wearing cloth face coverings or face masks during these interactions.
- Hand sanitizer must be available upon entry and exit for guests and employees, or hand washing facilities must be available.
- All employees must complete a health screening prior to their shift. Employees interacting with customers will be required to wear face coverings.
- All customers while waiting to be seated must follow appropriate physical distancing and face covering guidelines. If space does not allow for appropriate physical distancing, customers will be asked to wait in their cars or another off-premise area.
- Restricting table capacity to 6 people helps prevent large gatherings and associated risk of disease transmission.
- Physical distancing between tables must be at least 6 feet. If necessary, tables should be removed or clearly marked as not available for service to ensure they are not used if they are not safely spaced from other tables.
- Some outdoor activities have already reopened: Outdoor seating at golf courses, marinas and other outdoor venues to offer food and beverages may be allowed following the same guidelines above for restaurants and bars.
- Restaurants and bars that would like to expand upon their established outdoor seating capacity or establish new outdoor seating for dining, may use the attached application to submit a request. Each request will be reviewed to ensure that compliance has been met with all local ordinances, regulations, and safety precautions.

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) Food Safety Program will continue with food safety education, inspection, and response to community public health complaints. Our team is available to work with yours in implementing the above strategies and others to minimize risk of disease exposure to your employees and customers. Please call the SMCHD Environmental Health Division at 301-475-4321 with questions or to request assistance.

For more information and resources for local businesses related to COVID-19, please visit: www.smchd.org/coronavirus and click on **Businesses+**.

Thank you for your attention to these special modifications during these challenging times.



ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Licensed food service facilities in St. Mary's County, MD may request temporary expansion or establishment of outdoor seating during the COVID-19 pandemic by completing and submitting the following Application for Temporary Outdoor Seating to the St. Mary's County Health Department Environmental Health Division.

APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR SEATING (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Business Name: _____

Name of Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Days of Operation: _____ Hours of Operation: _____

TYPE OF REQUEST

Expansion of Existing Outdoor Seating Current Outdoor Seating #: _____

New Outdoor Seating Proposed Outdoor Seating #: _____

WATER/SEWER SERVICE TYPE

Public Water Private Water (Well)

Public Sewer Private Sewer (Septic)

Application is hereby made to temporarily expand or add new outdoor seating in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Applications will be reviewed once outdoor seating is allowed by state or local public health order. Compliance with operating a food service facility in accordance with COMAR 10.15.03 Regulations governing Food Service Facilities must be followed.

ADDITIONAL AGENCY APPROVALS

Additionally, **approval in writing is required** from the following agencies:

- St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office: Contact Bianca Reeder bianca.reeder@stmarysmd.com
Please include a site plan showing the location and set-up of your planned seating. Impact of vehicle traffic must be addressed on plan
- *(If Serving Alcohol)* St. Mary's County Alcohol Beverage Board:
Application for Extension of Premise, available at: www.stmarysmd.com/alcohol/beverageboard Please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 71600 for submission deadline information

ATTACHMENTS

The following **required attachments must be submitted** with this application:

- Written Agency Approvals (St. Mary's County Alcohol Beverage Board)
- Site plan (showing the location and set-up of your current and planned seating)
- COVID-19 Compliance Procedures Plan, including details on the following:
 - Use of face coverings
 - Employee screening for signs/symptoms of COVID-19
 - Social distancing in dining and waiting areas (table spacing, table capacity, customer capacity)
 - Hand washing at entrance and exits
 - Restroom traffic flow and cleaning schedule
 - Cleaning and sanitizing of dining areas, checkouts, point of sale, and other high traffic areas
 - Disposable utensils, menus, single use condiments

Completed applications with all requested documents/attachments may be submitted to the St. Mary's County Health Department, Environmental Health Division, Attn: Mark Morris, Deputy Director via:

- **Onsite Drop Box:** Located the Environmental Health Entrance at the St. Mary's County Health Department, 21580 Peabody Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650
- **Mail:** P.O. Box 316, Leonardtown, MD 20650
- **Email:** Mark.Morris@maryland.gov
- **Fax:** (301) 475-4373

Applications will be reviewed once outdoor seating is allowed by state or local public health order. Final approval will be granted following a site visit by the St. Mary's County Health Department Environmental Health (EH) Division. For questions, please contact the EH Division at (301) 475-4321.

Signature of Applicant:		Date:	
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OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved by:		Date:	
Remarks/Notes:			