Restaurant, Tavern, Breweries, Wineries and Distilleries COVID-19 Requirements

Summary of November 20 changes:

Pursuant to Governor Inslee’s Proclamation 20-25.8, Stay Safe-Stay Healthy, these requirements are effective November 17, 2020 through December 14, 2020. Summary of changes in November 16 Proclamation 20-25.8 update:

- Restaurants and Bars are closed for indoor dine-in service.
- Outdoor dining and to-go service are permitted, provided that all outdoor dining must comply with the requirements of the Outdoor Dining Guidance.
- Table size for outdoor dining is limited to a maximum of five (5) people.
- These modified restaurant and bar restrictions go into effect at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, November 18, 2020.
- These restrictions apply state-wide regardless of county phase.

Summary of October 6 changes:

- Alcohol service, delivery, and consumption at all establishments must end at 11:00 p.m. until Phase 4.
- In Phase 2 the maximum table size is increased to six (6) individuals and in Phase 3 the maximum table size is increased to eight (8) individuals.
- Removed the household member requirement for in-person dining.
- Other clarifications related to spacing requirements.

Restaurants, taverns, breweries, wineries and distilleries must adopt a written procedure that is at least as strict as the requirements in this document and that complies with the appropriate safety and health requirements and guidelines established by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries and the Washington State Department of Health.

Prior to recommencing on-site services, all owners are required to develop at each establishment, a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation, and recovery plan which must be adhered to. A site-specific COVID-19 monitor shall be designated at each location to monitor the health of individuals and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan. A copy of the plan must be available at all locations and available for inspection by state and local authorities. Failure to meet this requirement may result in sanctions up to, and including, license suspension.

All Establishments

Restaurants, taverns, breweries, wineries and distilleries must ensure strict adherence to all measures established by the Governor’s guidance, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention: General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces, and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations (DOH). All businesses are required to make their customers to use cloth face coverings when interacting with their staff.

1. Indoor dining is prohibited. For outdoor seating, a temporary structure may be used. Please refer
2. Table size for outdoor dining is limited to a maximum of five (5) people.
3. For liquor licensees who want to add outdoor seating to their premises, please go to the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) website, here, to access the Liquor Alterations Request Form. Please submit completed forms to liquoralterations@lcb.wa.gov.
4. Tables must be placed a minimum of 6 feet away from adjacent tables, or there must be a physical barrier or wall separating booths or tables.
5. If the establishment does not offer table service (i.e. wait staff), they must have protocols in place to ensure adequate social distancing at food and/or drink pick-up stations, and within their seating area.
6. Alcohol service, delivery, and consumption, including beer, wine, and spirits, must end at 11:00 p.m. until Phase 4.
7. Vending and other game areas, including billiards, darts, and video games, are prohibited until Phase 4.
8. No bar area seating is permitted. This is the area with a bar table/counter where patrons sit or stand side-by-side. If an establishment has bar area seating it must be closed off to prohibit use. Counter-style seating is permitted in other areas of the establishment (indoors or outdoors). Six feet of distance is required between other tables.
9. Customers must wear a cloth face covering anytime they are not seated (while being seated or leaving, or while going to the restroom) and while they are talking at tables and not eating.
10. Single use menus or reusable menus that are sanitized after each use are required.
11. Minimize the number of staff serving any given table. It is strongly recommended that one staff person take a table’s order, bring all of their beverages/food/utensils, take their payment, etc.
12. Hand sanitizer should be available at entry for all staff and patrons (assuming supply availability).
13. Any condiments typically left on the table (ketchup, soy sauce, etc.) must be single-use or sanitized after each use.
14. Buffets and salad bars are permitted and must follow Department of Health guidance.
15. All establishments must have implemented a plan to ensure proper physical distancing in lobby/waiting areas/payment counters.
16. Standing is prohibited in any area of establishment, except for the lobby/waiting area and then must be done while maintaining 6 feet of distance between patrons.
17. All live entertainment is prohibited.

Safety and Health Requirements

All restaurant, tavern, brewery, winery and distillery owners have a general obligation to maintain a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices as outlined in Governor Jay Inslee’s “Safe Start” Proclamation 20-25.4, the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces, and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources and Recommendations. All professional services establishments are required to post signage at the entrance to their business requiring their customers to use cloth face coverings. Employer-owners must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect professional employee-service
Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect workers, including:

- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the employer’s COVID-19 policies.
- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and customers) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or customers in narrow or enclosed areas, stagger breaks, and work shift starts.
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate or required to employees for the activity being performed. Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance. Refer to Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements for additional details. A cloth facial covering is described in the Department of Health guidance.
- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent transmission on tools or other items that are shared.
- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.
- Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at start of shift. Make sure sick employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the cleaning guidelines set by the CDC to deep clean and sanitize.

A site-specific COVID-19 Supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each job site to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.

A worker may refuse to perform unsafe work, including hazards created by COVID-19. And, it is unlawful for their employer to take adverse action against a worker who has engaged in safety-protected activities under the law if their work refusal meets certain requirements.

Employees who choose to remove themselves from a worksite because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits. Employers must provide high-risk individuals covered by Proclamation 20-46 with their choice of access to available employer-granted accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work arrangement is not feasible. Other employees may have access to expanded family and medical leave included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, access to use unemployment benefits, or access to other paid time off depending on the circumstances. Additional information is available at https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/paid-sick-leave-and-coronavirus-covid-19-common-questions.

No restaurant, tavern, brewery, winery or distillery may operate until they can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. No reopening inspections are required prior to a restaurant reopening provided they meet and maintain all requirements in this document. All issues regarding worker safety and health are
subject to enforcement action under L&I’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 prevention advice and help from L&I’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Safety Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.
- General questions about how to comply with agreement practices can be submitted to the state’s Business Response Center at https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at https://coronavirus.wa.gov/report-safe-start-violation