

TEMPORARY REGULATORY RELIEF FOR RESTAURANTS

As Kentucky restaurants have begun to reopen, and because of limited allowable indoor seating capacity, Louisville Metro wants to help restaurant owners find solutions to increase their outdoor seating capacity.

The following relief will be in place until 30 days after the date Governor Beshear has declared an end of the state of emergency:

Sidewalk/Right of Way Dining

The Department of Public Works requires restaurants to [apply for a permit online](#) for sidewalk seating, and is temporarily waiving application and encroachment permit fees to add or expand outdoor seating on public property, including sidewalks.

To obtain a permit, the business will need to provide proof of insurance, and a plan that shows placement of tables and chairs to comply with the required clearance to maintain access pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For questions about the permit, please call Public Works at (502) 574-3121.

Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Information for Outdoor Dining

Restaurants wishing to sell alcohol outdoors on property that they do not currently own or lease will need to submit a material change letter to local and state ABC authorities, along with documentation such as a copy of a lease or a letter of approval giving the restaurant permission to use the space.

In the case of additional sidewalk seating, a restaurant would need an approved encroachment permit from Public Works.

To add a supplemental bar, restaurant owners will need to submit an ABC application to local and state ABC authorities to add a supplemental bar to their license.

For questions about ABC requirements, please call Louisville Metro ABC at (502) 574-3591 or fill out [the contact form](#) for the state ABC.



Outdoor Dining on Private Property

Louisville Metro Council passed an emergency ordinance on May 15, 2020, to suspend certain planning and zoning requirements from the Land Development Code to allow:

- Expanded outdoor seating on private property or in a parking lot, without requiring additional parking, landscaping or other requirements associated with additional seating space
- Continued use of existing indoor bar to serve alcohol on private property, for restaurants that already have a liquor license to serve alcohol outdoors

Fill out a Temporary Outdoor Seating application [here](#).

Tent/Canopy for Outdoor Dining

Restaurants may opt to erect canopies to provide coverage for outdoor diners. A "Canopy" is a type of tent that has NO side walls or flaps; it is totally open on all sides. Canopies shall be laid out to encourage airflow and shall follow 6-foot social distancing guidelines for patrons and seating, including customer movement through the canopy area.

Any Canopy that is 700 square feet or less does not need a permit. Any Canopy larger than 700 square feet requires a permit from the city, must be inspected and cannot be within 20 feet of the property line.

Combustible materials such as hay, straw or like materials are not permitted under the canopy, and smoking is not permitted under the canopy. Open or exposed flames and outdoor cooking equipment must not be located within 20 feet of the canopy; and portable fire extinguishers are required.

During this temporary relief period, Tent Permit fees are waived. For more information and application, please visit the [Construction Review website](#) or call Construction Review at (502) 574-3321.

NOTE: Restaurants are NOT required to receive a permit or approval for outdoor seating on private property from Louisville Metro Government. Restaurant owners and/representatives should read the [Guidelines for Temporarily Expanding Outdoor Seating for Restaurants](#) and [the ordinance passed by Metro Council](#). Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services will review submissions and contact restaurants ONLY if there are concerns or issues with the plan.