



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Deborah Youngblood, PhD, Commissioner

1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459-1544

Telephone  
(617) 796-1420  
Fax  
(617) 552-7063  
TTY/TTD 617-796-1089  
TTY/TRS 711

December 15, 2020

To: Newton Food Establishments

From: Newton Health and Human Services

RE: Emergency Order Establishing Supplemental COVID-19 Restrictions in the City of Newton

This is to inform you that new temporary restrictions that may affect your business operations are going into effect on Friday, December 18 and will be in effect for at least 3 weeks.

- **Restaurants that allow seating at their bars must cease utilizing any bar seating until they have submitted new seating plans that adhere to additional safety protocols and have received approval from Newton's Board of License Commissioners.**
- No live entertainment; permissible entertainment is limited to approved televisions and background music.
- All activities ancillary to dining are prohibited, including but not limited to billiards, bowling, and darts.

Restaurants with common victualer licenses providing seated food service prepared on-site and under retail food permits issued by municipal authorities pursuant to 105 CMR 590.000 may operate only under the following requirements:

- Continued compliance with all relevant state workplace standards, including the six persons per table limitation.
- Strict enforcement of all standards including the 90-minute limit to reduce crowding and prevent the spread of COVID-19. No member of any dining party may remain in a restaurant for more than 90 minutes in a calendar day.

If you wish to apply for a waiver for seating at your bar, you will need to submit a plan regarding new health and safety protocols. Your new bar seating arrangement must include:

- Extending the surface area for serving at the bar to be a minimum of 6 six feet (can include pulling tables up to the bar)
- Or
- Establishing plexiglass dividers both between the bartender and the patrons AND between the patrons and each other.

To submit a plan for review, please provide hand drawn or computer-generated plans that clearly specify adherence to the above requirements, including the measurement. Please include a brief narrative description of how service will be provided at bar seating that adheres to the health requirements.

Submit your completed plans to [licensing@newtonma.gov](mailto:licensing@newtonma.gov)

We understand that this is a time sensitive matter to many businesses and will work hard to provide a response to requests for approval as soon as possible after receiving the completed documents for review.