



NEWTON AL FRESCO

Support Program for Restaurant Recovery

A Guide for Restaurants

Revised 6/22/20

Message from Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

Our restaurants are a critical part of what makes Newton special and they have been suffering dramatically during the COVID-19 emergency.

Governor Baker announced a phased approach to reopening restaurants, beginning the week of June 8th with outdoor dining. We have been working hard with our partners—restauranters, members of the City Council and the Newton Needham Regional Chamber—to resolve issues and to implement a series of steps to help facilitate outdoor dining in a quick, thoughtful, and safe manner in Newton.

On June 3rd, the Commissioner of Public Works issued a temporary general permit allowing all businesses, including restaurants, to place sandwich boards on the sidewalk to promote their business. On June 4th City staff mobilized to begin phase one of Newton Al Fresco by placing picnic tables and benches in parks and municipal parking lots near restaurant concentrations to provide outdoor take-out dining spots. To date, 24 picnic tables have been installed in 13 locations in 8 village centers. Restaurant patrons are able to purchase takeout from our myriad restaurants throughout the City, take their food to a provided table, eat their meal Al Fresco and enjoy the wonderful summer weather.

Subsequently, we received approval from our Licensing Commission for a global waiver to allow restaurants to use either their own parking lots or adjacent sidewalks for table service in strict accordance with the state's safety standards. The Commission also created an expedited process to allow restaurants who possess alcohol service licenses to extend their premises, a process allowed by Governor Baker's recent emergency order. Nearly 30 restaurants in Newton have begun outdoor table service.

Today, we have expanded Newton Al Fresco to allow table service in on-street parking spaces. We look forward to working with restaurants to implement this new service as quickly as possible.

We pledge to continue to work with you as partners in the coming days and weeks. Finally, don't hesitate to give us a call if you have an idea or thought we should consider.

Warmly,



Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor

This document is a living how-to guide for restaurant owners and managers who wish to expand their outdoor dining options.

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NEW as of 6/22

Outdoor Take-Out Dining Spots

On the morning of June 4, the City placed picnic tables and benches in public parks and parking lots near restaurant concentrations to provide outdoor take-out dining spots. There are currently 24 picnic tables in 13 locations and 8 village centers. Restaurateurs are encouraged to direct patrons to these tables. The City will provide picnic tables and benches, trash and recycling. Members of the public are responsible for cleaning before and after using tables.

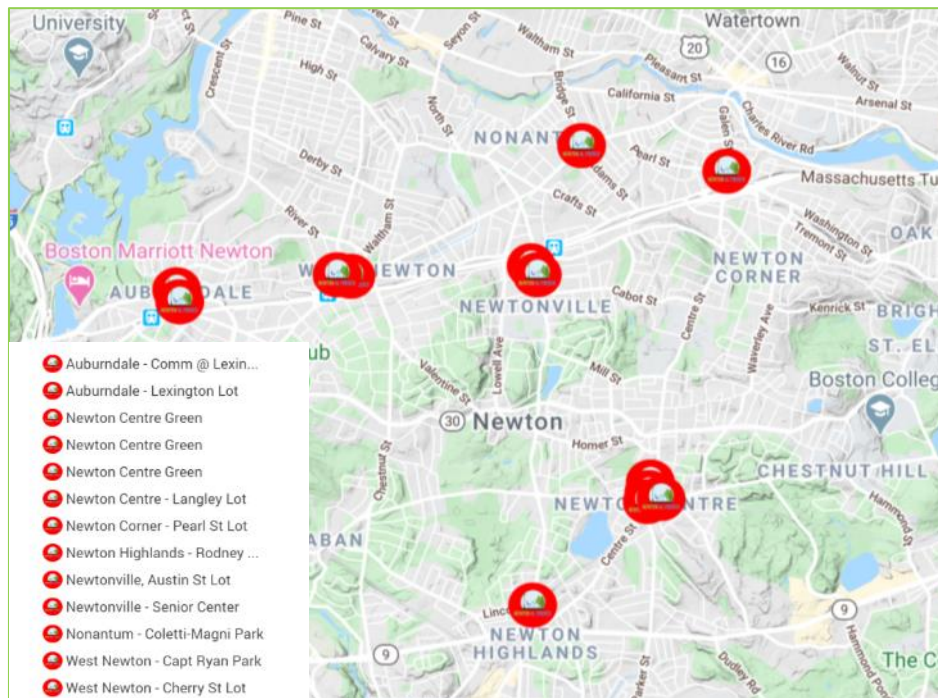
Restaurant to Do

- No action is needed to take advantage of this program

Recommended

- Encourage customers to enjoy takeout at nearby city outdoor dining locations.
- Provide individual sized cleaning supplies with your takeout orders for patrons to wipe down tables and chairs before and after eating
- Work with nearby restaurants to clean and sanitize tables multiple times per day

Map of Outdoor Dining Locations [\(click for navigable map\)](#)



Sandwich Boards

On June 3, the City's Commissioner of Public Works issued a temporary general permit related to sandwich boards on sidewalks. This general permit allows all businesses, including restaurants to place sandwich boards on the sidewalk directly abutting the business in order to promote the business.

Restaurant to Do

- No action is needed to take advantage of this program

Specifics

- Any sandwich board placed on the sidewalk must be placed so as to provide an unobstructed minimum width of 36 inches in accordance with MAAB and ADA regulations.

Private Parking Spaces

As of June 8, restaurants that have private parking lots or parking spaces may set up tables and seating in their parking lot or private parking spaces and begin providing food services and/or alcohol service.

Estimated Time to Open:

Food Service | Immediate upon submission
Alcohol Service | ~7 days if currently licensed

Restaurant to Do (Prior to Launching)

- Download [City of Newton's Al Fresco Licensing Guidelines](#) to begin application process. Submit relevant documents. The process has been substantially expedited. Food service may begin immediately upon submission, and service of alcohol is possible within 7 days.
- Obey all COVID-19 guidance from the state, found at:
 - a. [MA Safety Standards](#)
 - b. [Restaurants Checklist](#)

Site Specific Requirements

- All accessible (handicap) parking spaces must be maintained, but can be moved within the parking lot to accommodate seating.
- 10 x 10 tents are permitted provided 50% of the perimeter of the tent is open
- Maintain fire access to building
- Do not block any fixed objects (i.e. hydrants, benches, entrance/exit to building, etc.)
- Ensure 6 feet of separation between tables
- Operational hours shall be restricted to the business hours of the restaurant
- A barrier is required if alcohol is served

Sidewalks

As of June 8, restaurants fronting sidewalks with sufficient width may set up tables and seating on the sidewalk in front of their premises and begin providing food services and/or alcohol service.

Estimated Time to Open:

Food Service | Immediate with submission

Alcohol Service | ~ 7 days if licensed

Restaurant to Do (Prior to Launching)

- Download [City of Newton's Al Fresco Licensing Guidelines](#) for food and/or alcohol service. Submit relevant documents. The process has been substantially expedited allowing for food service to begin immediately upon submission, and service of alcohol possible within 7 days.
- Obey all COVID-19 guidance from the state, found at:
 - a. [MA Safety Standards](#)
 - b. [Restaurants Checklist](#)

Site Specific Requirements

- Sidewalk seating may not extend beyond the frontage of the restaurant
- Ensure a minimum 3 feet clear zone for pedestrians on the sidewalk at all times. (I.e. there must be a minimum of 3 feet between your seating/tables and either the curb or any fixed object on the sidewalk such as a trash can, bench, tree, etc.)
- Do not block any fixed objects (i.e. hydrants, benches, entrance/exit to building, etc.)
- Ensure 6 feet of separation between tables
- Operational hours shall be restricted to the business hours of the restaurant
- A barrier is required if alcohol is served

NEW as of 6/22

On-Street Parking

As of June 22, restaurants with on-street parking in front of their establishments may seek permission to set up tables and seating in the on-street parking spaces in front of their premises and begin providing food services and/or alcohol service. Temporary Licenses will be valid through Nov 1st.

Estimated Time to Open:

Parking Approval | 48 hours

Food Service | Immediate with Licensing app

Alcohol Service | ~ 7 days if licensed

Restaurant to Do (Prior to Launching)

- [Submit request](#) for use of on-street parking spaces. Metered and/or non-metered are allowed.
 - Include a map image showing the exact parking spaces you wish to utilize.
 - Provide a sketch of the layout of the tables, chairs, and perimeter barriers which can be hand drawn. This can be the same sketch you provide with your food/ alcohol license.
 - Specify whether you would like to use the City's protective barriers and temporary movable accessible curb ramps, if available. The City has a limited number both items available for use by restaurants, at no cost, on a first come first served basis.
- You will be notified within 48 hours of the status of your parking space request. If approved, you will be emailed a copy of required Licensing Commission application forms. Submit relevant documents to licensing@newtonma.gov. Food service may begin after appropriate barriers are placed around the service area. Service of alcohol is possible upon approval, within 7 days.
- If using protective barriers provided by the City, contact Shane Mark, smark@newtonma.gov, to coordinate installation.
- Obey all COVID-19 guidance from the state, found at:
 - [MA Safety Standards](#)
 - [Restaurants Checklist](#)

Site Specific Requirements

- Restaurants may use multiple parking spaces, provided a portion of all parking spaces align with the restaurant frontage (i.e. are contiguous with the restaurant frontage)
- [Protective barriers](#) are required along the three edges of your seating facing the street, unless otherwise specified by the City. Required barriers must be concrete or water-filled jersey barriers, a minimum 32" high and continuous along the 3 sides. The outside edge of barriers cannot extend more than 8' from curb. Barriers must remain in place at all times.
- A non-protective barrier along the fourth edge is required if alcohol is served.
- Temporary movable accessible curb ramps must be readily available for use as needed.
- Temporary materials, such as chalk, Astroturf or temporary paint may be placed on street surface provided they leave no permanent marks. Take caution to not cover any storm drains.
- Ensure 6 feet of separation between tables
- Dogs are not allowed, except service dogs

Barrier Examples

The following items are shared as examples of acceptable barriers only.



Water-filled jersey barriers, min. 32" high - To be filled by Licensee



Concrete jersey barriers, min. 32" high

- Water Filled Jersey Barriers (must be at least 32" high and weigh 500 lbs. when partially water filled)
 - Rental: <https://www.unitedrentals.com/marketplace/equipment/other-equipment/barricades-signs/barrier-wall-end-5-water-fill#/>
 - Rental: <https://www.soncorentals.com/> Link directly to the products - Water filled:
 - <https://www.soncorentals.com/safeguard-water-barriers>
 - Steel barricade: <https://www.soncorentals.com/steel-bike-rack-barricades>
 - Purchase: <https://www.bostonsafety.com/products/water-filled-barrier>
 - Purchase: https://www.uline.com/BL_568/Traffic-Barriers?keywords=barriers
 - Purchase: <https://www.crowdcontrolwarehouse.com/products/water-sand-fillable-traffic-barrier>
- Jersey Barriers
 - Rental: <https://sheaconcrete.com/contact-us>
 - Rental: <https://www.unitedrentals.com/marketplace/equipment/other-equipment/barricades-signs/barrier-wall-1>
 - [0-concrete#](#)