



AMENDED DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-11-17-01

No. MDH 2020-11-17-03

I, Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health, finding it necessary for the prevention and control of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“SARS-CoV-2” or “2019-NCoV” or “COVID-19”), and for the protection of the health and safety of patients, staff, and other individuals in Maryland, hereby authorize and order the following actions for the prevention and control of this infectious and contagious disease under the Governor’s Declaration of Catastrophic Health Emergency. **This Amended Directive and Order replaces and supersedes the Directive and Order regarding Food Service Establishments, dated November 10, September 18, June 10, and November 10, 2020.**

1. Limitations on Food Service Establishments

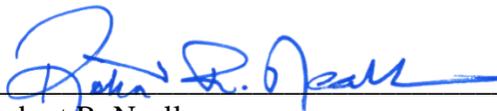
- A. All food service establishments under Executive Order No. 20-11-17-01 (the Executive Order) who may serve food and beverages to customers for consumption in outdoor and indoor seating areas shall:
 - i. Modify floor plans to ensure customers are seated at least 6 feet away from each other, except for households or a group seated together. No more than six people may be seated together as a group at a table.
 - ii. For facilities with indoor booth seating, the social distance of 6 feet must be maintained by closing every other booth.
 - iii. For facilities with outdoor booth seating, as an alternative to closing every other booth, a plexiglass shield (or similar physical barrier) may separate adjacent booths from each other in order to satisfy the social distancing requirement, so long as the plexiglass shield is sufficient to prevent persons in adjacent booths from any physical contact while either seated or standing (i.e., a height of at least 6 feet from the floor to the top of the shield).
 - iv. Establish a 6-foot marking system to visually demonstrate the recommended social distancing at all locations where staff and customers may congregate.
 - v. Customers seated at the bar must comply with the appropriate social distancing guidelines of at least 6 feet, except for households or a group seated together. Standing in a bar area is prohibited.

- a. If the bar area is used to fulfill carry-out food and drink orders, a designated area should be established with 6 feet of separation from seated patrons at the bar.
 - b. Visual markings should be used to establish six feet of separation between those in line for carry-out service.
- vi. Clean and disinfect each table between each seating as well as all high touch surfaces. Cleaning products should be appropriate for food contact surfaces that still meet EPA criteria for use against COVID-19.
- vii. Food may not be served in a buffet or self-service format.
- viii. Total capacity of an indoor food service establishment shall not exceed 50% of that facility's maximum occupancy as defined in the Executive Order.
- B. All food service establishments shall require all staff to wear face coverings unless it is not safe to do so, as defined in the Executive Order.
- C. Food service establishments shall undertake the following staff measures:
 - i. Employees shall be trained in and understand COVID-19 health and workplace guidelines, such as hand hygiene, cleaning protocols, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and disposal.
 - ii. Implement a daily screening process for workers, which includes CDC or Maryland Department of Health (MDH) recommended health questions and consider temperature testing.
 - iii. Direct sick workers to follow [CDC](#) and [MDH](#) guidelines regarding home isolation for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infections and returning to work.
- D. Any food service establishment shall require its customers over the age of five, and visitors over the age of five to wear face coverings indoors, as defined in the Executive Order, except during the consumption of food and drink. The food service establishment shall post signage at each entrance advising customers and visitors about such requirements.
- E. All owners/operators of food courts, including at malls or food halls, shall maintain the same above restrictions in common spaces used typically for the consumption of food.

2. **Severability**

If any provision of this Directive and Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of this Directive and Order or Guidance shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Directive and Order are severable.

THESE DIRECTIVES AND ORDERS ARE ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020 AND ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Robert R. Neall
Secretary