



Town of Arlington
Department of Health and Human Services

Office of the Board of Health

27 Maple Street
Arlington, MA 02476

Tel: (781) 316-3170
Fax: (781) 316-3175

MEMO

To: Food Establishment Owner/Operator
From: Natasha Waden, Public Health Director
Date: September 24, 2020
RE: Updated Restaurant Safety Standards Effective September 28, 2020

Governor Baker announced that starting Monday, September 28, 2020 restaurants can make the following changes to their operations:

- The size of a party seated at a table cannot exceed 10.
 - Tables must still be positioned so to maintain at least a 6 ft distance from all other tables and any high foot traffic areas (e.g., routes to bathrooms, entrances, exits). Tables may be positioned closer if separated by protective/non-porous barriers (e.g., structural walls or Plexiglas dividers) not less than 6 ft high installed between tables and high foot traffic areas.
- Bar seating is permitted provided that:
 - There are no active work areas or working staff behind the bar at least 6 ft away or there is a physical barrier (e.g. Plexiglas) separating customers from the bar space. The physical barrier must be at least 30 inches high and a gap/opening at the bottom of the barrier is allowed for food and drink service as long as the gap/opening is no more than 8 inches high.
 - Parties must be seated at bars (no standing customer service) and parties must be spaced at least 6 ft from other parties.
 - Bar areas may be reconfigured to accommodate table seating that complies with all spacing and other requirements in these COVID-19 safety standards if applicable building and fire code requirements are met.
 - Patrons seated at the bar must order food with any beverage order.
- Menus must be one of the following:
 - Paper, single-use menus disposed after each use.
 - Displayed menu (e.g., digital, whiteboard, chalkboard).
 - Electronic menus viewed on customers' mobile devices.
 - Laminated reusable menus sanitized between each use.
- Events hosted at restaurants must follow the Indoor and Outdoor Events safety standards, including the capacity limitations in that guidance.

Information regarding the restaurant safety standards can be found on the Reopening Massachusetts website using the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/phase-iii-step-1-restaurants-protocol-summary-92220/download>

Information regarding the indoor and outdoor events safety standards can be found on the Reopening Massachusetts website using the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/indoor-and-outdoor-events-protocol-summary-92220/download>

For questions regarding this matter, please contact the Health Department at (781) 316-3170.