



# COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE:

## Restaurants, Bars, and Wineries

Release date: **June 5, 2020**

Recommended effective date  
no sooner than: **June 12, 2020**

*All guidance should be implemented only with county health officer approval following their review of local epidemiological data including cases per 100,000 population, rate of test positivity, and local preparedness to support a health care surge, vulnerable populations, contact tracing, and testing.*



# OVERVIEW

On March 19, 2020, the State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health issued an order requiring most Californians to stay at home to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 among the population.

The impact of COVID-19 on the health of Californians is not yet fully known. Reported illness ranges from very mild (some people have no symptoms) to severe illness that may result in death. Certain groups, including people aged 65 or older and those with serious underlying medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, are at higher risk of hospitalization and serious complications. Transmission is most likely when people are in close contact with an infected person, even if that person does not have any symptoms or has not yet developed symptoms.

Precise information about the number and rates of COVID-19 by industry or occupational groups, including among critical infrastructure workers, is not available at this time. There have been multiple outbreaks in a range of workplaces, indicating that workers are at risk of acquiring or transmitting COVID-19 infection. Examples of these workplaces include long-term care facilities, prisons, food production, warehouses, meat processing plants, and grocery stores.

As stay-at-home orders are modified, it is essential that all possible steps be taken to ensure the safety of workers and the public.

Key prevention practices include:

- ✓ physical distancing to the maximum extent possible,
- ✓ use of face coverings by employees (where respiratory protection is not required) and customers/clients,
- ✓ frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection,
- ✓ training employees on these and other elements of the COVID-19 prevention plan.

In addition, it will be critical to have in place appropriate processes to identify new cases of illness in workplaces and, when they are identified, to intervene quickly and work with public health authorities to halt the spread of the virus.

# PURPOSE

This document provides guidance for restaurants, brewpubs, craft distilleries, breweries, bars, pubs, and wineries (referred to collectively as “restaurants, bars, and wineries”) to support a safe, clean environment for workers and customers.

**NOTE:** Restaurants, bars, and wineries are encouraged to continue takeout and delivery service whenever possible. Venues that are currently authorized to sell beer, wine, and spirits to be consumed off premises should follow the [guidance for retail](#). Producers of beer, wine, and spirits should follow the [guidance for manufacturing](#). Restaurants, bars, and wineries that have game operations such as bowling alleys, pool tables, etc. should follow the [guidance for family entertainment centers](#). This guidance is not intended for concert, performance,

or entertainment venues. Restaurants, bars, and wineries must discontinue this type of entertainment until these types of activities are allowed to resume modified or full operation. All events or gatherings that would bring together persons from different households, such as private parties, must be cancelled or postponed until further notice.

The guidance is not intended to revoke or repeal any employee rights, either statutory, regulatory or collectively bargained, and is not exhaustive, as it does not include county health orders, nor is it a substitute for any existing safety and health-related regulatory requirements such as those of Cal/OSHA.<sup>1</sup> Stay current on changes to public health guidance and state/local orders as the COVID-19 situation continues. Cal/OSHA has more comprehensive guidance on their [Cal/OSHA Interim General Guidelines on Protecting Workers from COVID-19 webpage](#). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has [guidance for restaurants](#) and the CDC has additional [considerations for restaurants and bars](#).



## Workplace Specific Plan

- Establish a written, workplace-specific COVID-19 prevention plan at every location, perform a comprehensive risk assessment of all work areas, and designate a person at each establishment to implement the plan.
- Identify contact information for the local health department where the operation is located for communicating information about COVID-19 outbreaks among employees or customers.
- Train and communicate with employees and employee representatives on the plan.
- Regularly evaluate the establishment for compliance with the plan and document and correct deficiencies identified.
- Investigate any COVID-19 illness and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection. Update the plan as needed to prevent further cases.
- Identify close contacts (within six feet for 15 minutes or more) of an infected employee and take steps to isolate COVID-19 positive employee(s) and close contacts.
- Adhere to the guidelines below. Failure to do so could result in workplace illnesses that may cause operations to be temporarily closed or limited.



## Topics for Employee Training

- Information on [COVID-19](#), how to prevent it from spreading, and which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting the virus.
- Self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using [CDC guidelines](#).
- The importance of not coming to work if employees have symptoms of COVID-19 as [described by the CDC](#), such as a frequent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, or if they or someone they live with have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- To seek medical attention if their symptoms become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or bluish lips or face. Updates and further details are available on [CDC's webpage](#).

- The importance of frequent handwashing with soap and water, including scrubbing with soap for 20 seconds (or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol (preferred) or 70% isopropanol (if the product is inaccessible to unsupervised children) when employees cannot get to a sink or handwashing station, per [CDC guidelines](#)).
- The importance of physical distancing, both at work and off work time (see Physical Distancing section below).
- Proper use of face coverings, including:
  - Face coverings do not protect the wearer and are not personal protective equipment (PPE).
  - Face coverings can help protect people near the wearer, but do not replace the need for physical distancing and frequent handwashing.
  - Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth.
  - Employees should wash or sanitize hands before and after using or adjusting face coverings.
  - Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Face coverings should be washed or discarded after each shift.
- Ensure temporary and contract workers at the facility are also properly trained in COVID-19 prevention policies and have necessary supplies and PPE. Discuss these responsibilities ahead of time with organizations supplying temporary and/or contract workers.
- Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home. See additional information on [government programs supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID-19](#), including employee's sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and the Governor's [Executive Order N-51-20](#), and employee's rights to workers' compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor's [Executive order N-62-20](#).



## Individual Control Measures and Screening

- Provide temperature and/or symptom screenings for all workers at the beginning of their shift and any vendors, contractors, or other workers entering the establishment. Make sure the temperature/symptom screener avoids close contact with workers to the extent possible. Both screeners and employees should wear face coverings for the screening.
- If requiring self-screening at home, which is an appropriate alternative to providing it at the establishment, ensure that screening was performed prior to the worker leaving home for their shift and follows [CDC guidelines](#), as described in the Topics for Employee Training section above.
- Encourage workers who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home.
- Employers should provide and ensure workers use all required protective equipment, including eye protection and gloves where necessary.
- Employers should consider where disposable glove use may be helpful to supplement frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer; examples are for workers who are screening others for symptoms or handling commonly touched items. Workers should wear gloves when handling items contaminated by body fluids.
- Face coverings are strongly recommended when employees are in the vicinity of others. Workers should have face coverings available and wear them when at work, in offices, or in a vehicle during work-related travel with others. Face coverings must not be shared. Employers are generally encouraged to provide face coverings but must provide them when required by employer rules or these guidelines.
- Servers, bussers, bartenders, and other workers moving items used by customers (dirty cups, plates, napkins, etc.) or handling trash bags should use disposable gloves (and wash hands before putting them on and after removing them) and aprons and that are changed frequently.
- Dishwashers should use equipment to protect the eyes, nose, and mouth from contaminant splash using a combination of face coverings, protective glasses, and/or face shields. Dishwashers must be provided impermeable aprons and change them frequently. Reusable protective equipment such as shields and glasses should be properly disinfected between uses.
- Establishments must take reasonable measures, including posting signage at all entrances and in strategic and highly-visible locations and in reservation confirmations, to remind the public that they should use face

coverings while not eating and drinking, practice physical distancing, to not touch their face, to frequently wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, and to use hand sanitizer.

- Guests and visitors should be screened for symptoms upon arrival, asked to use hand sanitizer, and to wear a face covering when not eating or drinking. Employers have the right to cancel reservations for individuals/parties with symptomatic guests. Face coverings should be made available for customers who arrive without them. Babies and children under age two should not wear face coverings, in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#).
- Display a set of clearly visible rules for customers and personnel at entrance(s) that are to be a condition of entry. The rules could include instructions to use hand sanitizer, maintain physical distance from other customers, avoid unnecessary touching of restaurant surfaces, contact information for the local health department, and changes to services. Whenever possible, the rules should be available digitally, include pictograms, and included on/with menus.



## Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

- Perform thorough cleaning in high traffic areas, such as customer waiting areas and lobbies, break rooms, lunch areas and areas of ingress and egress including host stands, entry ways, stairways, stairwells, escalators, handrails, and elevator controls. Frequently disinfect commonly used surfaces including doors, door handles, crash bars, light switches, waiting area chairs, credit card terminals, ATM PIN pads, receipt trays, bus tubs, serving trays, phones, toilets, vehicle keys, and handwashing facilities.
- Frequently clean items touched by patrons, especially those that might attract contact from children including candy and toy vending machines, arcade games, decorative fish tanks, display cases, decorative fountains, etc.
- Clean touchable surfaces between shifts or between users, whichever is more frequent, including but not limited to working surfaces, phones, registers, touchpads/touchscreens, tablets, timeclocks, appliances, kitchen and bar utensils and implements, oven doors, grill and range knobs, carts and trolleys, keys, etc.
- Avoid sharing audio equipment, phones, tablets, laptops, desks, pens, and other work supplies wherever possible. Never share PPE.
- Discontinue shared use of audio headsets and other equipment between employees unless the equipment can be properly disinfected after use.

Consult equipment manufacturers to determine appropriate disinfection steps, particularly for soft, porous surfaces such as foam earmuffs.

- Provide time for workers to implement cleaning practices during their shift. Cleaning assignments should be assigned during working hours as part of the employees' job duties.
- Procure options for third-party cleaning companies to assist with the increased cleaning demand, as needed.
- Equip spaces such as dining and tasting rooms, bar areas, host stands, and kitchens with proper sanitation products, including hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for all staff directly assisting customers.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities stay operational and stocked at all times and provide additional soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer when needed.
- When choosing cleaning chemicals, employers should use products approved for use against COVID-19 on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-approved](#) list and follow product instructions. Use disinfectants labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, diluted household bleach solutions (5 tablespoons per gallon of water), or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol that are appropriate for the surface. Provide employees training on manufacturer's directions and Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use. Workers using cleaners or disinfectants should wear gloves and other protective equipment as required by the product instructions. Follow the [asthma-safer cleaning methods](#) recommended by the California Department of Public Health.
- Continue to follow existing codes regarding requirements for sanitizing (rather than disinfecting) food contact surfaces.
- To minimize the risk of [Legionnaires' disease](#) and other diseases associated with water, [take steps](#) to ensure that all water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.
- Restaurants, bars, and wineries should increase fresh air circulation by opening windows or doors, if possible and in accordance with security and safety protocols.
- Consider installing portable high-efficiency air cleaners, upgrading the building's air filters to the highest efficiency possible, and making other modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in all working areas.
- Provide menus via alternative, low-touch methods, if possible, such as disposable paper menus, non-touch chalk or white boards, and digital menus that customers can view on a personal electronic device. Provide

disposable order numbers/table trackers if possible. If alternatives cannot be provided, properly disinfect menus, order numbers, etc. before and after customer use. Consider options that allow customers to order ahead of time.

- Discontinue pre-setting tables with napkins, cutlery, glassware, food ware, etc. These should be supplied individually to customers as needed. Do not leave card stands, flyers, napkin holders, or other items on tables.
- Suspend use of shared food items such as condiment bottles, salt and pepper shakers, etc. and provide these foods in single serve containers, if possible. Where this is not possible, shared items such as condiment bottles, shakers, etc., should be supplied as needed to customers and disinfected after each use.
- Pre-roll utensils in napkins prior to use by customers. Employees must wash hands before pre-rolling utensils in napkins. The pre-roll should then be stored in a clean container. After customers are seated, the pre-roll should be put on the table by an employee who recently washed their hands.
- Reusable customer items including utensils, food ware, breadbaskets, etc., must be properly washed, rinsed, and sanitized. Cleaned flatware, stemware, dishware, etc., must be properly stored away from customers and personnel until ready for use. Use disposable items if proper cleaning of reusable items is infeasible.
- Takeout containers must be filled by customers and available only upon request.
- Dirty linens used at dining tables such as tablecloths and napkins should be removed after each customer use and transported from dining areas in sealed bags. Employees should wear gloves when handling dirty linens.
- Thoroughly clean each customer dining/drinking location after every use. This will include disinfecting tables, chairs, booster seats, highchairs, booths, etc. and allowing adequate time for proper disinfection, following product instructions. Environmental Protection Agency-approved disinfectants require a minimum contact time (seconds to minutes) to be effective against human coronavirus.
- Consider using disposable seat covers, particularly on porous surfaces. Discard and replace seat covers between each use. Provide disposable or washable covers on pillows used in seating areas and change/wash them after each use.
- Close areas where customers may congregate or touch food or food ware items that other guests may use. Modify delivery of these items by providing items to guests individually, converting to cafeteria-style

service, etc. Discard or clean, disinfect, or sanitize shared items after each use, as appropriate. The areas that should be closed include but are not limited to:

- Self-service areas with condiment caddies, utensil caddies, napkins, lids, straws, water pitchers, to-go containers, etc.
- Self-service machines including ice, soda, frozen yogurt dispensers, etc.
- Self-service food areas such as buffets, salsa bars, salad bars, snack areas, etc.
- Discontinue tableside food preparation and presentation such as food item selection carts and conveyor belts, guacamole preparation, etc.
- Do not leave out after-meal mints, candies, snacks, or toothpicks for customers. Offer them with the check or provide only on request.
- Install hand sanitizer dispensers, touchless if possible, at guest and employee entrances and contact areas such as driveways, reception areas, in dining rooms, near elevator landings, throughout tasting and drinking areas, etc.
- Consider discontinuing use of shared entertainment items that are difficult to properly clean and disinfect such as board games, books, etc.



## Physical Distancing Guidelines

- Prioritize outdoor seating and curbside pickup to minimize cross flow of customers in enclosed environments. Restaurants, bars, and wineries can expand their outdoor seating if they comply with local laws and regulations.
- Consider providing takeout, delivery, and drive through options for customers whenever possible. Takeout items should be made available using contactless pick-up and delivery protocols.
- Eliminate person-to-person contact for delivery of goods whenever possible. Designate drop-off locations to receive deliveries away from high traffic areas. Maintain physical distance of at least six feet with delivery drivers.
- Encourage reservations and appointments when possible to allow for time to disinfect eating and drinking areas.
- Consider allowing customers to order ahead of time to limit the amount of time spent in the establishment.

- Ask customers to wait in their cars or away from the establishment while waiting to be seated. If possible, alert patrons through their mobile phones when their table is ready to avoid touching and use of “buzzers.”
- Adjust maximum occupancy rules inside the establishment based on its size to limit the number of people inside and/or use impermeable barriers between service tables to protect customers from each other and employees. For outdoor seating, maintain physical distancing standards of at least six feet and as outlined in this guidance.
- Limit the number of patrons at a single table to a household unit or patrons who have asked to be seated together. People in the same group seated at the same table do not have to be six feet apart.
- Implement measures to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between workers and customers/single groups. This can include use of physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor markings or signs to indicate to where employees and/or guests should stand).
- Install physical barriers or partitions at cash registers, bars, host stands, and other areas where maintaining physical distance of six feet is difficult.
- Any area where guests or employees queue should also be clearly marked for appropriate physical distancing. This includes check-stands and terminals, deli counters and lines, restrooms, elevator lobbies, host stands and waiting areas, valet drop off and pickup, and any other area where customers congregate.
- Establish one-way directional hallways and passageways for foot traffic, if possible, to eliminate employees from passing by one another.
- Guests should enter through doors that are propped open or automated, if possible. Hand sanitizer should be available for guests who must touch door handles.
- Remove tables and chairs from dining areas so that six feet of physical distance can be maintained for customers and employees. If tables, chairs, booths, etc., cannot be moved, use visual/physical cues to make them unavailable for use or install Plexiglas or other types of impermeable physical barriers to minimize exposure between customers.
- Discontinue seating customers and/or groups at bar counters, sushi preparation bars, etc., where they cannot maintain at least six feet of distance from employee work areas/stations.
- Discontinue open seating. All members of a customer group must be present before seating and hosts must bring the entire group to the table at one time. Whenever possible, ask guests to be seated rather than standing to discourage unnecessary movement.

- Discourage customers from ordering at the bar and instead usher guests directly to their tables. Staff should take and deliver orders to customers to limit the number of people moving around shared spaces. If customers must order from the bar, reconfigure space so that bartenders, other workers, and customers can maintain at least six feet of distance from one another.
- Adjust music volume so that employees can maintain distance from customers to hear orders.
- Implement peak period queueing procedures, including a host to remind guests to queue with at least six feet of distance between groups outside or in waiting areas.
- Limit the number of employees serving individual customers or groups, in compliance with wage and hour regulations.
- Encourage the use of credit cards and contactless payment systems.
- Face coverings are strongly encouraged for all employees; however, they are required for any employee (e.g., server, bartender, manager, busser, food runner, etc.) who must be within six feet of customers or other workers. All workers should minimize the amount of time spent within six feet of guests.
- Physical distancing protocols should be used in any office areas, kitchens, pantries, walk-in freezers, or other high-density, high-traffic employee areas. Face coverings are required where employees cannot maintain physical distancing including in kitchens, storage areas, etc.
- Employee pre-shift meetings and trainings should be conducted virtually or in areas that allow for appropriate physical distancing between employees. Food, beverages, food ware, etc., should not be shared.
- Stagger employee breaks, in compliance with wage and hour regulations, to maintain physical distancing protocols.
- Consider offering workers who request modified duties options that minimize their contact with customers and other employees (e.g., managing inventory rather than working as a cashier or managing administrative needs through telework).
- Reconfigure office spaces, lobbies, beverage bars, kitchens and workstations, host stand areas, and other spaces wherever possible to allow for at least six feet of distance between people dining, working, and passing through areas for entry and exit.
- Close breakrooms, use barriers, or increase distance between tables/chairs to separate workers and discourage congregating during

breaks. Where possible, create outdoor break areas with shade covers and seating that ensures physical distancing.

- Reconfigure kitchens to maintain physical distancing in those areas where practical. Consider doing prep work ahead of time to allow staggering of shifts to reduce staff in the kitchen at one time.
- Discourage food preparation employees from changing or entering others' workstations during shifts.
- Discourage employees and guests from congregating in high traffic areas such as bathrooms, hallways, bar areas, reservation and credit card terminals, etc.
- Require employees to avoid handshakes and similar greetings that break physical distance.
- Employees should not open the doors of cars or taxis.
- If possible, install transfer-aiding materials, such as shelving and bulletin boards, to reduce person-to-person hand-offs.
- Discontinue activities that encourage movement and shared items between guests including karaoke singing, open mic performances, trivia activities, mixers, pub crawls, etc.
- Discontinue services and activities that carry an increased risk of contamination from sharing and splashing and such as drinking games and/or contests, drop shots, etc.
- Consider limiting excessive consumption of alcohol that could deter guests' compliance with these guidelines.
- Close dance floors and discontinue performances such as musical or dance acts that encourage large gatherings.



## **Additional Considerations for Tasting Rooms**

- Provide a clean glass for each tasting and, if possible, do not pour beverages into a glass that a customer has already used (smelled, tasted from, etc.)
- Discontinue the use of communal dump buckets, spit buckets, spittoons, etc. Provide individual, disposable cups to each guest instead to avoid splash contamination between guests.
- Do not touch beverage container necks to cups, glasses, etc., when pouring wine, beer, or spirits.

- Take measures to ensure that tasting group appointment times do not overlap to minimize interaction of people from different groups and places.
- Discontinue tours that combine individuals from different households into the same tour group. Tour guides must maintain at least six feet of physical distance from customers/visitors.

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<sup>1</sup>Additional requirements must be considered for vulnerable populations. Restaurants, bars, and wineries must comply with all [Cal/OSHA](#) standards and be prepared to adhere to its guidance as well as guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#). Additionally, employers should be prepared to alter their operations as those guidelines change.

