



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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# COVID 19 RESTAURANT AND BAR EXECUTIVE ORDER FAQ'S-March 17, 2020

There are two executive orders pertaining to food establishments and the consumption of food in regards to the COVID 19 pandemic. The restaurant and bar order and the gathering of 50+ people in a common space. These FAQ's have been addressed by the IDPH during a conference call today, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

There are still some items that are being discussed with the Governor's office, IDPH, State Police, State Fire Marshall, Illinois Liquor Commission, and States Attorney's Office.

## FAQ'S

The main focus of the executive order revolves around the social distancing of people.

1. What is permitted? **Food Establishments are permitted to deliver food; carry out; curbside delivery (preferred); catering. This means absolutely NO onsite dining or eating inside any food establishment. A customer CAN go into a restaurant, place an order, wait inside, and then carry it out. They should practice social distancing of 6 feet while inside.**
2. What places does this include? **Restaurants; bars; grocery stores; theaters; bowling alleys; hotels; food courts in malls; private events in banquet halls; private parties in bars or restaurants; gas stations; convenience stores; community events; temporary events; corporate cafeterias; wedding venues; etc.**

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3. Are any places exempt from the 50+ order? **YES, grocery stores, hospitals, shelters, and other essential services are exempt from the 50+ people rule. A restaurant, coffee shop, movie theater, bowling alley, etc.. CANNOT exceed 50+ patrons and employees in the facility at one time.**
4. What about places that have buffet style options such as hot bars, salad bars, breakfast buffet, self-serve hot dog roller, soda machines? **The executive order did not limit this, however we can make “recommendations” that they eliminate self-service and have staff serve the consumers. It is recommended frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high frequency touch surfaces such as buttons on soda machine.**
5. Facilities may run out of “to go” containers soon. Can customers bring containers from home? **YES, however, per the Food Code the restaurant employee must inspect the container to make sure it is in good condition and then follow the 3 step process of wash—rinse---sanitize before filling with any food.**
6. Are restaurants required to provide bathroom facilities? **NO, since it's carry out only they are not required to offer public restrooms.**
7. What happens if an employee of a food establishment tests positive for Covid 19? **The Cook County Communicable Disease Center will be notified of all positive persons. If one is a food establishment employee, the Village of Niles Health Inspector will work with the CDC to determine if the facility is required to close.**
8. What sanitizers work best? **The IDPH will be sending a link to the CDC recommendations.**
9. Can local health departments make stricter rules? **NO, must follow the executive order. The local health department can make suggestions and recommendations, but cannot have different rules or regulations.**
10. Are food establishments required to have signage on the door indicating no dining in the facility? **It is not required, but it is recommended.**
11. What about churches and shelters? **They are discouraged from having large communal gatherings. No food can be consumed on the premises.**