

June 9, 2020

To: Owners/Operators of Food Premises:

Re: Preparations for re-opening Food Premises

The Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit would like to provide guidance to support owners/operators in their plans on how to reopen food premises included in stage 2 of the Reopening Ontario Plan. While we have worked hard to flatten the curve, and our risk is lower, COVID 19 remains a public health threat and therefore public health measures must remain in place as we open up local businesses and services. It is important to be adequately prepared to open in a manner that reduces the risk of contracting COVID 19 for your staff and your customers.

The Ontario Government announced that as of June 12th, 2020, the following food premises may reopen with appropriate precautions in place.

- Restaurants, bars, food trucks and other food and drink establishments (e.g., wineries, breweries and distilleries) can open for dining in outdoor areas only, such as patios, curbside, parking lots and adjacent premises.
- Food services and restaurants with mall-only entrances may open for outdoor dining spaces, delivery and takeout. Dine-in at indoor food courts is prohibited.

The follow measures/strategies must be in place prior to reopening or expanding the services offered by food premises:

- Establishments must take appropriate measures to ensure physical distancing of at least two meters between patrons from different households, including:
 - Using reservations.
 - Limiting number of patrons allowed in the outdoor space at one time.
 - Ensuring enough space between tables, including to allow for movement.
 - Access to indoor facilities is limited to patio/outdoor dining area access, food pickup, payment, washrooms or other health and safety purposes.
 - A barrier to ensure physical distancing between the patio and patrons on the side walk/or exterior of the patio area must be in place.

Liquor Sales

Liquor sales licensees who wish to temporarily extend the physical size of their existing licensed patio, or temporarily add a new licensed patio within the approved period are authorized to do so, if all the following criteria are met:

- The physical extension of the premises is adjacent to the premises to which the licence to sell liquor applies.
- The municipality in which the premises is situated does not object to an extension.
- The licensee is able to demonstrate sufficient control over the physical extension of the premises.
- There is no condition on the liquor sales license prohibiting a patio.

Weddings, Funerals and Similar Gatherings Where Food May Be Served

Venues not otherwise restricted can open to conduct wedding ceremonies, funerals and similar gatherings within existing public health restrictions. The following requirements must be met:

- Events will be required to comply with limits for social gatherings of up to 10 people.
- Dine-in and bar services must be in-line with the related guidelines and restrictions.
- Indoor and outdoor venues may open for weddings, funerals and similar gatherings, with limited access to facilities.
- Guests that are not part of the same household should follow physical distancing guidelines.

Additional resources and signage for businesses is available on the health unit website. Please visit the following site: <https://healthunit.org/covid-19-businesses/>

As many businesses have been closed, it is important that the following requirements under the Ontario Food Premises regulation are met:

- The premises is thoroughly cleaned
- All refrigeration and freezer units are cleaned and checked to ensure they are operating at the proper temperatures and are equipped with thermometers
- Any unsafe food is disposed of
- Pest control measures are in place
- Additional cleaning and sanitizing supplies are available for the additional cleaning requirements
- Dishwashers are in working order
- Staff are properly trained on the precautions for COVID 19
- A certified food handler in on site during all hours of operation

Please be aware that public health measures are requirements in order to operate and are enforceable under the Emergency Measures and Civil Protection Act.

Best wishes for a successful reopening of your food premises.

Sincerely,

Teresa Clow

Acting Manager Community Health Protection