

Dear licensee

Change to Public Health Directions to support businesses

Further to our correspondence of 2 October 2020 about the move to Step 3.2 of Canberra's Recovery Plan, we are writing to confirm the restriction changes which will take effect at **9am tomorrow, Friday, 9 October 2020**.

A key change is that the density limit for outdoor spaces will be amended to allow one person per two square metres of usable space, up to a maximum of 200 patrons for each outdoor space.

The changes mean that there are essentially three key options for hospitality venues in the ACT. The options were developed taking into account the public health situation within the ACT and neighbouring jurisdictions as well as feedback from industry.

The Options are as follows:

- Option One (25 person rule): Venues with usable space of 100sqm or less can have a maximum of 25 people across the whole venue (includes all indoor/outdoor spaces).
- Option Two (50 person rule): Venues with usable space between 101sqm and 200sqm can have 50 people across the whole venue (includes all indoor/outdoor spaces).
- Option Three (1:4/1:2 rule) – for venues who wish to have more than 25 or 50 people they must take the following approach:
 - One person per four square metres, up to a maximum of 200 people, for each indoor space; and
 - one person per two square metres, up to a maximum of 200 people, for each outdoor space.

It is important to note that venues cannot use a combination of the three options. You must choose one option to apply and ensure mandatory occupancy signage, as well as your venue's COVID Safety Plan is updated to reflect the patron calculations.

However, to support businesses, if a venue chooses to use Option Three (1:4/1:2 rule) to maximise the number of patrons due to a larger outdoor area, and that outdoor area is unable to be used due to inclement weather, venues can choose to use Options One or Two if this provides a higher volume of patrons than the 1:4 option.

Important:

- Usable floor space means the floor space you have calculated for your COVID-19 occupancy (ie. excludes areas such as storerooms and toilets).
- In determining new customer numbers, businesses must not breach any pre-existing liquor or fire occupancy loading and regulatory conditions that are in place.

Electronic recording of contact details

With the easing in restrictions, hospitality venues are strongly encouraged to use an electronic method to capture patron details. The free [Check In CBR app](#) is available to help venues to fulfill this requirement. The app is easy to use, reduces the administrative load on business and will ensure that the ACT is in the best position possible to respond to an outbreak if it occurs.

Ongoing compliance activity

Compliance with the current Public Health Direction is critical in supporting community safety. Access Canberra, the Health Protection Service and ACT Policing continue to undertake proactive checks at businesses to support compliance and community safety against the current Public Health Direction.

Non-compliance with the public health directions can result in regulatory action and serious penalties may apply.

It is acknowledged that businesses utilising the maximum 25 or 50 patron maximum, may not be able to maintain 1.5 metres physical distancing between customers who are not known to each other. The expectation is:

- Businesses should organise their spaces to maximise physical distancing between groups of customers, and
- Apply the 1.5 metre rule where possible and continue with other measures to keep their staff and customers safe.

Further guidance or information:

- Further information is available and will be updated on the ACT Government's [COVID-19 website ahead of the changes coming into effect tomorrow morning](#).
- The Access Canberra Business Liaison Team is available to answer questions or provide advice. Reach the team on (02) 6205 0900.
- The updated Public Health Direction will be available prior to the change commencing on the [COVID-19 website](#).

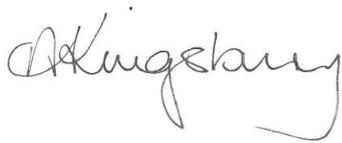
These changes do not take effect until 9am on 9 October 2020. Until this time, the existing Public Health Direction remains in effect.

A new Public Health Direction which reflects the changes: *Public Health (Restricted Activities - Gatherings, Business or Undertakings) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 11)* will be [available here later today](#).

New signage templates for your venue are available on the COVID-19 website at [this link](#) as well as are attached to this email.

Your ongoing cooperation and proactive compliance with the Public Health Direction is greatly appreciated as we work to support our community's safety and Canberra's recovery from COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



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