

Dear Licensee

COVID-19 restrictions for the Hospitality sector – Step 3.1

Due to the strong support and proactive compliance of the Public Health Directions to date by business and our community there will be changes to the COVID-19 restrictions, including the reopening of some sectors that have been closed since March.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with initial information on what business can expect to see outlined in the next Public Health Direction to support your forward planning.

Today the ACT Government and ACT Chief Health Officer announced that as at **9:00am on Monday 10 August 2020**, the following changes will come into effect for your sector, under Stage 3, Step 3.1 of Canberra's Recovery Plan:

What will change:

- There will no longer be a limit to the size of groups where only liquor is being consumed.
- The business owners and management will be responsible for ensuring that there is appropriate physical distancing between patrons queuing to enter premises.

What will stay the same:

- All venues, facilities and businesses must clearly display occupancy allowance at the entrance to the venue as well as display additional signs with area occupancy for separate individual spaces.
- All venues must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan, which needs to be available for inspection by an authorised person.
- 1 person per four sqm of usable space rule applies, up to a maximum of 100 people for each indoor and each outdoor space (excluding any staff on premises).
- Request the first name and contact phone number (for contact tracing purposes) of each person who attends and, if provided, keep a record of those details along with the date and time at which the person attended. Details can be securely destroyed after 28 days.

Guidance for compliance with Direction

- Businesses need to manage ingress and egress.
- For venues with total usable space of 100sqm or more, tables should be spaced in a way that ensures that patrons at different tables remain 1.5 metres apart. This could mean that tables are more than 1.5 metres apart.
- Venues with total usable space of 100sqm or less to have tables spaced as far apart as practicable (1.5 metres where this is possible).
- Where there are multiple indoor or outdoor spaces within a venue, separate waiting staff to work in only one dining area, wherever possible.
- If possible, ensure there are separate bathroom facilities for each indoor or outdoor space, so bathrooms are not shared between a large number of patrons.

- We strongly discourage self-serve buffet style food service areas, communal bar snacks or communal condiments.
- Patrons can order and collect meals at a bar or counter but should be seated at other times.
- Seating at bars is allowed (with physical distancing between groups) but businesses should aim to separate seating from where orders are taken (to avoid crowds forming).
- Manage sittings so patrons are not staying at the venue for more than 2 hours.
- Need to request first name and phone number of all patrons present at the venue, not just a booking name.
- Increased cleaning of high touch areas (railings on stairs, menus, bars, chairs) and restroom facilities.
- Increased cleaning of shared entertainment facilities such as pool tables, electronic machines.
- Encourage patrons not to congregate or mingle within the venue.

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.

Guidance, next steps, where to get more information:

- Further information is available on the ACT Government's [COVID-19 website](#).
- The Access Canberra Business Liaison Team is available to answer questions or provide advice. The team can be reached on (02) 6205 0900.
- The Public Health Direction which will reflect Stage 3, Step 3.1 changes is expected to be published on 7 August 2020. It will be available [at this link](#).

It's important to note that these changes do not take effect **until 9am 10 August 2020**. Until this time, the existing Public Health Direction remains in effect and businesses, industry and community must comply with that direction.

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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