

Dine Out Indy: Three Things to Know About Restaurants Reopening

Starting May 22, Marion County will be ready to begin reopening restaurants throughout Indianapolis. To help keep everyone safe and healthy during this process, there are new regulations to follow—and as we move into different phases of the reopening, these restrictions may change.

Restaurants must receive a temporary license and complete the notification process before they begin operations.



Can my restaurant use outdoor seating?



If your restaurant already has outdoor seating, these areas can be used to serve patrons.

You may also serve patrons on private property contiguous to your restaurant, including the parking lot.



Restaurants located within five designated restaurant districts (including parts of Mass Ave., Georgia Street, Illinois Street, Broad Ripple Avenue, and the two southern quadrants of Monument Circle), may be able to use sidewalk/street seating.



Bars that currently do not serve food and non-licensed restaurants are **NOT** allowed to reopen with outdoor seating.

What am I allowed to do in my outdoor space?



You may have a seating capacity that is 50% or less of your original capacity. This is to help with social distancing.

Groups of people must be limited to six or less.

Signs may be used to mark seating between restaurants, provide directions or instructions, or advertise outdoor seating (no additional permitting will be required).



A canopy with open sides is allowed in contiguous lots only. If it is larger than 3,200 square feet, a separate temporary permit is required.



Tents with closed sides, live music, and all forms of live entertainment are **NOT** permitted.

What should I know about how outdoor areas can be used?



Your outdoor seating must be in line with ADA requirements.

Restaurants with an existing liquor license may serve alcohol in compliance with ATC guidance.

Restaurants may **NOT** share outdoor seating space.



If you're displaying signs, they should not impede line of sight for emergency personnel or cross traffic.



Restaurants with age-restricted seating must remain age-restricted even with all patrons outside.

Outdoor bars are **NOT** allowed.