



JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR

## Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL



### UPDATED May 14, 2020

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is providing you with this update in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health to keep you up-to-date with additional information and/or changes as it becomes available during our battle with COVID-19. These notifications are issued automatically and immediately to those who sign up through “OpenSafely” (<https://opensafely.la.gov/>).

Every attempt is being made to **highlight** critical changes that have occurred since the previously published notification for your convenience. However, please read through this entire document in context as these changes do not stand on their own and all of the additional general information and clarifications made may not be highlighted.

#### **Preface:**

This Phasing plan applies to restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops that have been affected during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. Essential (critical) infrastructure business are not further restricted by these new guidelines and may continue to operate under the current guidelines that are applicable to the specific business. Refer to: [https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/covid/Essential-Infrastructure\\_fact-sheet.pdf](https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/covid/Essential-Infrastructure_fact-sheet.pdf) for specific information regarding critical infrastructure businesses.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious and deadly disease. The fundamental concept of this Phased opening plan is to slowly open businesses at reduced occupant capacities that will allow for social distancing and circulation without encroaching upon others. Everyone’s cooperation is critical to the success towards defeating this disease and revitalizing our economy.

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# Phase 1 - Restaurants, Cafes and Coffee Shops - Includes Bars and Micro-Breweries holding an LDH Food Service Certificate

**START DATE: May 15, 2020**

Restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, and **bars and microbreweries** that hold an LDH Food Service Certificate must adhere to strict mitigation standards and social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. When possible, maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals not within the same household. Measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced. Individuals 65 years or older, people of all ages with poor control of medical issues like high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or a weakened immune system are at a higher risk for getting very sick or dying from COVID-19 and should strictly adhere to all CDC guidelines, and are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible. The specific requirements and guidelines for this service industry during this Phase are listed below. These requirements and guidelines supplement and do not replace any directives or guidance provided by other state agencies, boards and commissions, or other authorities having jurisdiction. Where conflicts occur, the stricter of the requirements will apply.

## **Occupant Capacity and Building Safety Rules:**

The maximum building capacity during the **Phase 1** period is limited to 25% of the normal established capacity and can be limited by the social distancing requirements of 6 feet as outlined below. Please note that capacity restrictions should be applied down to the individual room, not just overall facilities.

- Do not exceed the maximum building capacity of 25% which may be determined as follows:
  - One person per 60 square feet of gross area; or
  - 25% of the posted capacity by order of the State Fire Marshal.

## Other Requirements:

- Tables shall be arranged such that a minimum of 6 feet of distance between persons seated at other tables is maintained, and more specifically:
  - Tables shall be placed a minimum of 6 feet apart, measured from the table edges, where movement or seating between tables is not necessary;
  - Where movement between tables is necessary, or where one person is seated between tables, the tables shall be spaced a minimum of 8 feet apart from the table edges;
  - Where persons are seated at each table back-to-back, the tables shall be spaced a minimum of 10 feet apart from the edges.
- **Booth seating units can be fully utilized if separated by partitions with a height that exceeds the height of an average seated patron's head. If not, they are subject to spacing as provide above.**
- No more than 10 persons shall be seated at a single table and such parties should be members of the same household.



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- Table service is allowed.
- Buffets and other common food service stations shall remain closed.
- Interior waiting areas shall remain closed. Waiting may be provided outside of the facility while following social distancing guidelines or persons shall wait in cars. Reservations are strongly encouraged.
- Avoid gatherings in the building while entering, exiting, or moving about.
- Kitchen and employee area capacity shall be reduced to allow for 6-foot distancing between employees.
- Indoor live entertainment is not authorized in this Phase.
- Customers are required to be seated at tables and not congregating in open areas of the establishment.
- Restaurant outdoor dining areas – self-serve or table service allowed and outdoor live entertainment with no dancing nor standing. - begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. Refer to OSFM Interpretive Memorandum 2020-23 for outdoor dining limitations and guidance which will remain effective throughout **Phase 1**. See: [http://lasfm.org/doc/interpmemos/im\\_2020-23\\_Revised.pdf](http://lasfm.org/doc/interpmemos/im_2020-23_Revised.pdf).

### **Checklist for Management**

- Actively enforce the capacity and social distancing requirements and manage the customers' movements.
- Ensure the exterior waiting areas are not blocked.
- Maintain social distancing requirements explained in this document.
- EPA recommends that building owners and managers take proactive steps to protect public health by minimizing water stagnation during closures and taking action to address building water quality prior to reopening: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use>

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## **Checklist for All Staff**

- Check for fever or respiratory symptoms daily.
- Keep at least 6 feet from other employees and customers.
- Wear face coverings.
- Wash your hands often.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer between each customer interaction.
- Clean and sanitize tables and counters, as well as surfaces that customers touch often, like doorknobs, handles, plates, light switches, countertops, refrigerator and freeze door handles, etc. Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces, as well as high-touch surfaces, followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings. Follow the CDC guidance for proper cleaning and disinfecting. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- Clean and disinfect the restrooms regularly.
- Handwashing is the most important hand hygiene that can be done to stop the spread of COVID-19. Gloves are recommended when handling money but not recommended for other tasks that do not normally require gloves. If gloves are worn:
  - Hands should be washed before putting gloves on and after removing gloves.
  - Gloves should be changed often, changed between tasks, changed when they are obviously soiled, and changed after each interaction with a new individual.
- Do not touch the customers.

## **Face Covering Guidance**

Refer to Louisiana Department of Health guidance here:

<http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Coronavirus/resources/CDC-DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>

## **Steps for Cleaning of Areas and Other Items**

1. First, clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty.
2. Then, use disinfectant.
  - If possible, use [EPA-registered household disinfectant](#).
  - Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.

Many products recommend:

- Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label).



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- Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface.

- Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection and ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing or for whitening, may not be suitable for disinfection.
- Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Leave solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.

To make a bleach solution, mix:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water; or
- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water.

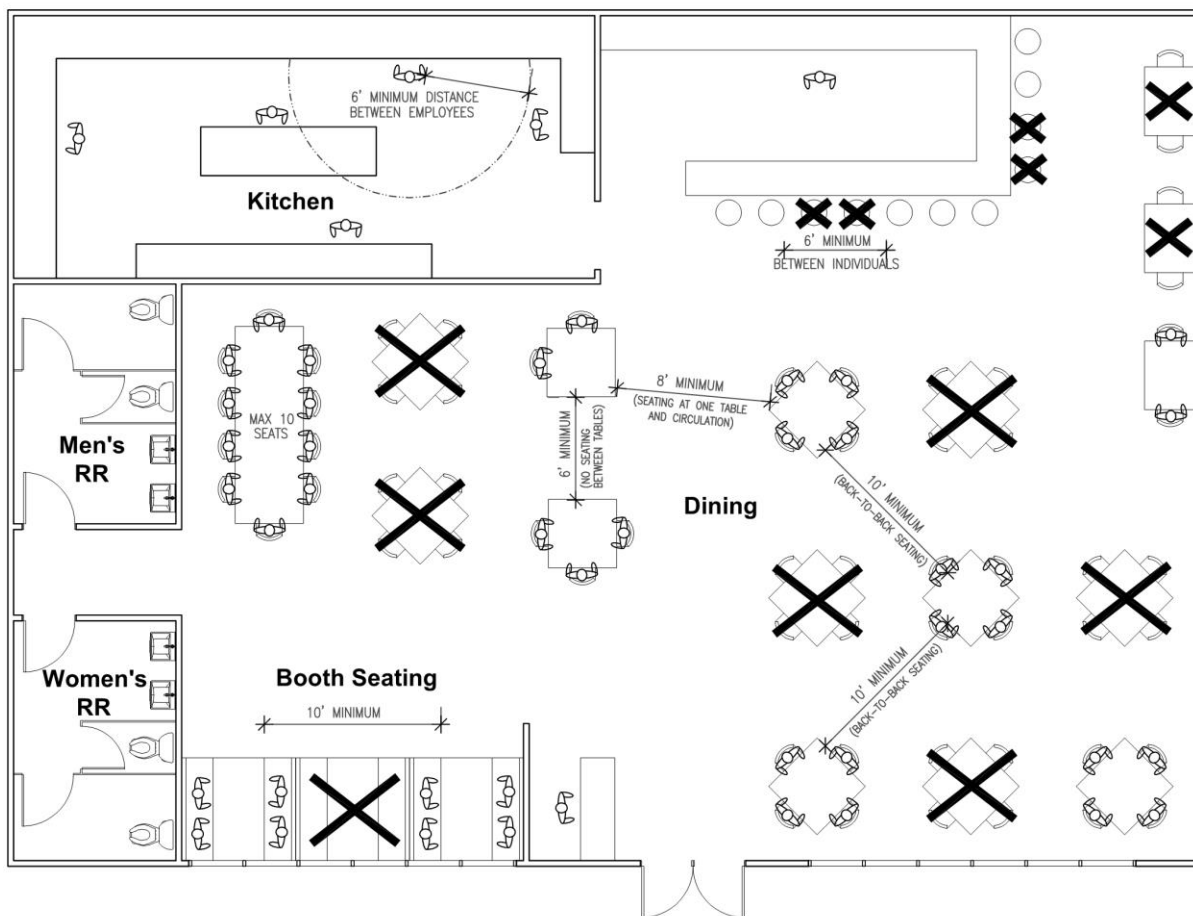
Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.

The CDC offers this additional guidance for cleaning: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

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### Sample Seating Layout

Normal maximum capacity = 200 → Phase 1 capacity = 50 (25%)



### Reference Documents

- ❑ Essential (Critical Infrastructure) Services remain operational with guidelines in place. See: <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/covid/Essential-Infrastructure-fact-sheet.pdf>
- ❑ Restaurant outdoor dining areas self-serve or table service allowed and outdoor live entertainment with no dancing nor standing - begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. Refer to OSFM Interpretive Memorandum 2020-23 for outdoor dining limitations and guidance which will remain effective throughout **Phase 1**. See: [http://lasfm.org/doc/interpmemos/im\\_2020-23\\_Revised.pdf](http://lasfm.org/doc/interpmemos/im_2020-23_Revised.pdf)

