

COVID-19 FAQs for Restaurants and Bars

1. Are restaurants allowed to operate?

Yes, but according to a new Executive Order 20-71, effective March 20, 2020, no food may be consumed on the restaurant premises, and all food must be for delivery or take-out only.

2. Are customers allowed on the restaurant premises?

Yes, customers may be present to order and to pick up food but may not eat on the premises. The intent of the order is to prevent groups from gathering, so the business should take precautions to support that.

3. Are restaurants required to continue screening their staff?

Yes, the need for screening questions required by Executive Order 20-68 remains in effect. The questions include:

- Are you currently experiencing signs or symptoms of respiratory infection, such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- Have you had close contact with any person who has been tested and confirmed to be infected with COVID-19?
- Have you returned from international travel or a cruise within the last 14 days?
- Have you returned from travel to any area known to have high numbers of positive cases or community spread of COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?

Note: Any “yes” answer requires the employee be excluded from work for at least 14 days from the “yes” answer or when contact occurred with a person infected with COVID-19. Persons in Charge (PIC) should also assess employees upon arrival for work. Employees that report or demonstrate symptoms such as sore throat, cough, fever, shortness of breath or respiratory difficulty should be dismissed from work until symptoms cease. This is also required by employee health provisions of the US FDA Food Code (2017). Employees diagnosed with COVID-19 may not return to work until having two consecutive negative COVID-19 tests, with 24 hours between negative tests.



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4. Are alcohol sales allowed?

Yes. Businesses licensed to sell alcohol beverages for consumption on premises must cease all consumption on the premises, but pursuant to Executive Order 20-71 may sell alcohol beverages in sealed containers for consumption off the premises until the order is rescinded.

Additionally, a restaurant with a Special Food Service (SFS) license may make package sales of alcoholic beverages for delivery, take-out, or consumption off premises if the alcohol beverage is in a sealed container and accompanied by a food order. All alcohol delivery is subject to requirements of section 561.57, Florida Statutes.

Also, Executive Order 20-71 prohibits consumption of food or beverages on the premises of restaurants and bars on the licensed premises of any special license type holder (such as special hotel, Series 11C, SBX), but consumption is allowed in airports when adhering to the precautions in Executive Order 20-68.

5. Are alcohol beverage licensees allowed to sell mixed drinks "to go?"

No. Unless otherwise permitted by law, the sale of alcoholic beverages in sealed containers for consumption off-premises requires containers that are sealed by the manufacturer.

6. Can third party delivery services deliver alcohol?

Yes, if in compliance with section 561.57, Florida Statutes.

7. Are tasting rooms allowed to sell alcohol beverages "to go?"

Yes. While sales for consumption on premises at a tasting room are currently suspended, package sales are allowed.

8. How are Executive Order Requirements Enforced?

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation has established a complaint procedure and may take administrative action against licensees that are in violation of the requirements of any Executive Order. Potential penalties include significant fines and even immediate suspension of the license.



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