



NOTICE - COVID-19 Advisory - Indoor Food Service, Retail, and Personal Service Establishments (May 12, 2021)

Effective May 15, 2021, the Maryland Department of Health advises all **indoor food service establishments** under Executive Order No. 21-04-28-01 (the Executive Order) of the following:

A. It is recommended, but not required, that with respect to service of food and beverages in indoor areas (as defined in the Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland No. 21-05-12-01, as it may be amended from time to time (the Executive Order)) foodservice establishments (as defined in the Executive Order) promote customer compliance with the appropriate physical distancing guidelines of at least 6 feet, except for households or a group seated together.

B. Buffets may reopen, provided the establishment clearly requires physical distancing of at least six feet between individuals and masking of customers who are not seated, particularly in the buffet area.

For foods not prepackaged, deli tissue or other food grade single-use service items should be provided. High touch surfaces should be cleaned frequently, and disinfecting wipes can be provided to customers. Provide single-use deli tissues, napkins, etc. for customers to use when opening displays, handling carafes and other items at beverage stations, or for other high-touch surfaces that cannot be eliminated. Consider providing signage for customers on how to safely serve themselves.

The Maryland Department of Health also recommends that **all retail establishments** under the Executive Order should, in good faith and to the extent possible:

- i. where any queue is expected to form, designate with signage, tape, or by other means at least six-foot spacing for persons in line;
- ii. sanitize, or provide customers with a means to sanitize, handles of carts and baskets that are available to customers;
- iii. provide staff and customers with clean restrooms stocked with soap or

sanitizer, and allow staff to wash their hands at least once every 30 minutes; and

- iv. post signage at each entrance advising customers about the requirement to wear Face Coverings as described in the Executive Order and above.

All personal service establishments under the Executive Order should, after providing services to each customer, clean and disinfect the area in which services were performed. Cleaning products should be appropriate for food contact surfaces that still meet EPA criteria for use against COVID-19.



Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary