

The Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County

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Q & A FOR ALCOHOL LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

Updated June 12, 2020 3:00 PM

*****UPDATED*** REOPENING OF INDOOR SEATING**

INDOOR SEATING IS REOPENED UP TO 50% for bars & restaurants (check with your Health Dept if you don't know your seating capacity). Customers MUST be seated & all social distancing rules (including reducing number of booths/tables to achieve 6' distancing) ordered by the Governor & local Health Dept must be followed. You may have to reduce any outdoor seating you were granted to avoid exceeding your total seating capacity.

OUTDOOR SEATING REQUESTS

YOU MUST FILE THE FOLLOWING TWO FORMS:

FOR HEALTH & SHERIFF APPROVAL:

<http://www.smchd.org/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Reopening-Guidance-EH-1.pdf>

FOR ALCOHOL SERVICE:

<https://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/COVID%2019%20ODS%20app.pdf>

- **BOTH FORMS MUST BE REVIEWED & APPROVED BY ALL AGENCIES BEFORE SERVICE BEGINS.**
- **A DETAILED, TO SCALE DRAWING, SHOWING SEATING ARRANGEMENTS & MEASUREMENTS, MUST ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION – THE SAME DRAWING SHOULD BE USED FOR BOTH APPLICATIONS**
- **DELIVERY & CARRY-OUT CAN CONTINUE**

ALL APPROVALS FOR OUTDOOR SEATING ARE TEMPORARY & WILL END WHEN THE GOVERNOR LIFTS THE ORDER.

ALL SALES AT BUSINESS MUST BE “GRAB & GO” CARRY-OUT. ALL BUSINESSES MUST IMPLEMENT & ENFORCE FACE COVERINGS OF BOTH STAFF & CUSTOMERS. ALL BUSINESSES MUST IMPLEMENT & ENFORCE PROCEDURES THAT ALLOW FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING. SEE GOVERNORS ORDER FOR DETAILS: <https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Masks-and-Physical-Distancing-4.15.20.pdf> WILLFUL FAILURE TO COMPLY CAN RESULT IN FINES & JAIL TIME.

1. FACE MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING:

The St. Mary's County Health Department has issued an Order that requires ALL employees and customers MUST wear a face mask when in your establishment. The complete order may be found at this link: <http://www.smchd.org/wp-content/uploads/SMC-Public-Health-Order-4-13-20fn.pdf>

For other Health Dept. Orders & COVID-19 information, please check their webpage frequently: smchd.org

The Governor has also issued an order requiring face coverings and mandating social distancing. Failure to comply can result in up to a year in jail and a \$5000 fine.

<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Masks-and-Physical-Distancing-4.15.20.pdf>

2. I have a bar or restaurant; can I sell alcoholic beverages for carry out?

If your license has an **OSO** in the Privilege/Restriction section (located below the expiration date), you were not allowed to sell alcohol for carry out. The Governor's Order has **temporarily** lifted that ban. **you may now sell carry out. See #3**

If you do not have this restriction listed on your license, you may sell for carry out, the alcoholic beverages authorized by your license. Those businesses that have an **RCP** or **NCP** designation in the Privilege/Restriction section may sell growlers (RCP) or crowlers (NCP) for carry out. **THESE ARE BEER ONLY.** Due to the shortage in growler containers, the restriction on size & requirements normally required are **temporarily** lifted.

3. Can I serve my patrons a beverage while they wait for carry out?

No. the intent of the exception in the closure order is **grab & go+**. consumption of food or beverage on premises is prohibited till further notice.

4. Can a restaurant or bar sell mixed cocktails to go?

Yes . At this time all types of alcoholic beverage may be sold in this manner, however you must seal the container & inform your customers that this could be viewed as an open container by law enforcement, even if they are not consuming it in their vehicle. They must not consume in their vehicle or while on your premise.

5. I have a “food-truck”, can I sell alcohol out of my food truck?

NO . no food trucks used in a vendor capacity may sell alcohol. Pick up of take out orders should be at your brick & mortar location . not from your food truck. If you are using your food truck to make deliveries, the purchase should have been pre-made at your restaurant, sealed in a bag with paid receipt attached . no preparation in the food truck or to-go sales out of the food truck.

6. Can we deliver alcoholic products to customers?

YES - The Governor’s Order 20-03-19-02 amended, March 19, 2020, lifts the restriction imposed on retail license holders by the Alcoholic Beverages Article §3-506 and our local alcohol rules and regulations §5.04(o), on the delivery of alcoholic beverages off premises. You are still responsible at delivery to ensure the person receiving the order is of legal age. **This reprieve from restriction is temporary. You must follow all the guidelines for deliver in the Governor’s Order:**

<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Beverage-Delivery.pdf>

The Governor’s Order shall remain in effect until after the termination of the state of emergency in Maryland and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.

NO THIRD PARTY DELIVERY SERVICES MAY BE USED – only employees of the business may make deliveries. Third Party delivery services are companies like Grub Hub+or Door Dash+

7. We have a tasting privilege (BWT) on our license, can we continue to do tastings?

No . all tastings . including those done by distributors on your premise are prohibited at this time.

8. I have Lottery, can my customers sit or stand in my store while they play?

No . your Lottery rep should have already contacted you about this. Customers must leave as soon as they purchase their tickets.

9. Will I be able to pick up my new license in April?

At this time all County Government Administrative Offices are closed to the public until further notice.

You will have to get your renewal by mail. **Please follow these instructions carefully:**

a. Make a check or money order payable to the St. Mary’s County Treasurer

b. If your check is not a business check, make sure you enclose information identifying your licensed establishment. The Treasurer takes payments for many different types of transactions, not just alcohol licenses, so make sure it is clear what business this payment is for.

c. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope . the envelope should be at least 4+x 9+. if you use a larger envelope, make sure you have proper postage for the size.

d. Mail the envelope and payment to:

*St. Mary’s County Treasurer
PO Box 642
Leonardtown, MD 20650*

Licenses will not be mailed out before April 1st.

If County Offices are shut down completely, the Governor has already executed an Order to extend the expiration dates of licenses to 30 days after the Emergency Order is lifted. Please check frequently for updates on the St Mary’s Government website for any changes in operational status:

<https://www.stmarysmd.com/>

10. What guidelines do I have to follow for my carry out customers?

The Executive Orders of the Governor may be found at:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/category/executive-orders/>

You may also find information on the Health Departments webpage: <http://www.smchd.org/>

There have been reports statewide of misinformation being disseminated on what businesses can do at this time. If you receive any information stating that you are now allowed to engage in a practice that you have not previously been allowed to do or is not mentioned in this notice, contact that regulating agency or our office to validate BEFORE you implement such practice.

11. We need to close our business – do we need to notify the Alcohol Board?

Yes . you must notify the Board if you close or reduce your hours. You may email us at:

tamara.hildebrand@stmarysmd.com Please state how long you estimate you will be closed or list new hours of operation. When you resume normal operations, let us know as well.

12. Will the Alcohol Beverage Board Office be open during this state of emergency?

All County Administrative Offices are closed to the public. However, we are still here to answer calls & emails . if you can't get through, leave a message . we will get back to you. We intend to be available to our licensees as best as possible during this time.

Voicemail: 301-475-4200 x 71600

Email: tamara.hildebrand@stmarysmd.com

Monthly Board meetings have been cancelled till June.

County Government operational status updates may be found on their webpage:

<https://www.stmarysmd.com/>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A RAPIDLY EVOLVING SITUATION
STATUS IS BEING UPDATED ON A DAILY BASIS**

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNERSHIP TO CHECK THIS AND ALL
GOVERNING WEBSITES ON UPDATES – FAILURE TO DO SO COULD RESULT IN
VIOLATION OF THE LAW, FINES & JAIL TIME**

SITES TO CHECK DAILY:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/>

<http://www.smchd.org/coronavirus/>

<https://www.stmarysmd.com/alcohol/beverageboard/>

<https://www.stmarysmd.com/>