

A photograph of a restaurant interior. The scene shows several tables set with glassware and plates, surrounded by wooden chairs. In the background, there is a bar area with stools and a brick wall. The lighting is warm and ambient, with pendant lamps hanging from the ceiling. The floor is a light-colored, speckled material.

# Recommendations for Liquor Licensed Restaurants, Bars, and Nightclubs

**March 25, 2020**



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES

**Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, ADHS recommends the following precautions be taken by people visiting restaurants, bars, and nightclubs providing dine-in services:**



**Stay home if you are sick.**



**Protect yourself while visiting restaurants, bars and nightclubs:**

- Arizonans are safer at home and should evaluate their personal risk of visiting a restaurant, bar, or nightclub providing dine-in services based on the [Arizona COVID-19 Risk Index](#).
- Avoid close contact and stay more than 6 feet away from others.
- It is recommended that you wear a mask while at the establishment, except while actively eating or drinking.
  - Masks should not be placed on children less than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.
- Wash your hands often, especially after leaving the establishment, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) and immediately throw the tissue in the trash.
- If possible, use touchless payment methods. If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer or wash your hands immediately after.
- If you are at [higher risk](#) for [severe illness](#), you should avoid visiting restaurants and bars providing dine-in services. People at higher risk for severe illness include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions.

**The Arizona Department of Health Services recommends the following additional steps be taken by liquor licensed restaurants, bars, and nightclubs providing dine-in services:**

- Comply with all local, state, and federal laws pertaining to restaurants, bars, and nightclubs including the food code.**
  
- Encourage physical distancing of more than 6 feet between customers who do not live in the same household.**
  - Maintain physical distancing by providing more than 6 feet of separation between parties or groups at different tables, booths or bar tops, unless the tables are separated by glass, plexiglass or some other type of divider.
  - Consider limiting large parties to no more than 10.
  - Clearly mark tables and chairs that are not in use.
  - Maintain clearly marked 6-foot spacing marks and/or signage along entrances, waiting areas, hallways, patios, and restrooms and any other location within an establishment where queues may form or patrons may congregate.
  - Assign an employee to monitor and enforce physical distancing in any locations where queues may form or patrons may congregate, if feasible.
  - Customer Waiting Areas – Areas used by customers waiting for their seats should provide 10 sq ft exists for each person waiting. Additional customers should be encouraged to wait outside or in their cars until their seats are ready. Encourage customers waiting for a table to wear masks.
  
- Encourage the use of masks for both employees and customers.**

- If possible, consider limiting dancing:**
  - Encourage dancers to remain at least 6 feet from others on the dance floor.
- May continue to provide options for delivery, pick-up, or curbside service even if a location offers dine-in.**
- Follow CDC reopening guidance for facilities that have been shut down, including taking measures to ensure potable water safety.**
- Enforce healthy hygiene practices for both employees and customers:**
  - Encourage handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes.
  - Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene practices for both employees and customers including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (perhaps on every table and counter, if supplies allow), and tissues.
  - Ensure hand sanitizer is available at or adjacent to entrances to the facility, restrooms and in employee work areas, or soap and running water readily accessible to staff and customers at marked locations.
- Limit instances where customers could share food, such as bowls of food items (nuts, chips, etc).**
- Post physical and/or electronic signage at the entrance of public health advisories advising individuals who are symptomatic to refrain from entering the premises.**
- Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a mask.**

- Increase ventilation, if possible, and ensure that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly.**
  - Increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods.
  
- Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation practices.**
  - Wash, rinse, and sanitize food contact surfaces, food preparation surfaces, and beverage equipment after use.
  
- Implement comprehensive sanitation protocols, including increased sanitation schedules for bathrooms. Sanitize customer areas after each sitting with EPA-registered disinfectant, including but not limited to:**
  - Tables
  - Bar tops and counters
  - Tablecloths
  - Chairs/booth seats
  - Any other surface or item a customer or staff is likely to have touched
  
- Limit instances where customers serve their own food, including salad bars and buffets.**
  
- Avoid using or sharing items such as menus, condiments, and any other food. Instead, use disposable or digital menus, single-serving condiments, and no-touch trash cans and doors.**
  
- Wipe any touchpads between each use.**
  
- Wipe any pens, counters, or hard surfaces between use or customer.**

**For liquor licensed restaurants, bars, and nightclubs providing dine-in services that also offer parlor games and karaoke:** ADHS recommends the following:

### **Pool tables/darts/cornhole/skee ball/outdoor lawn games**

- Reduce the number of players of each game to 4 or less, if possible,
- Space apart pool tables/dart boards/cornhole boards/skee ball lanes to provide physical distancing between customers,
- Encourage physical distancing of at least 6 feet between other game areas and the players,
- Encourage players to use their own equipment,
- Disinfect the equipment between each group's use, and
- Eliminate areas where people can congregate.

### **Arcade/Video games**

- Encourage non-playing customers to avoid clustering or standing at the arcade or behind seated players,
- Consider reducing the number of players to no more than 2 per machine,
- All arcade games and their high touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected on a regular schedule, and
- Encourage physical distancing of at least 6 feet between other arcade units and the players.

## **Bowling/Axe throwing**

- Consider reducing the number of players and observers at each lane to less than 10 people,
- Encourage physical distancing of at least 6 feet between players,
- Encourage players to bring their own equipment,
- Disinfect the equipment between each group's use,
- Encourage players to wear masks at all times, except when actively eating or drinking
- Eliminate areas where people can congregate,
- Wipe any pens, scoreboards, counters, electronic gaming devices or consoles, and other hard surfaces between each group.

## **Karaoke:**

- Encourage the active karaoke participant to remain at least 12 feet away from the closest customer. By moving the karaoke machine away from the audience.
  - This distance could be reduced to 6 feet if a plexiglass barrier is installed between participant and other customers,
- Equipment (i.e microphone) is disinfected or changed out between customers,
- Encourage masks to be worn by singers, and
- Allow for adequate time between participants to allow for proper ventilation and disinfection.

**The Arizona Department of Health Services recommends the following additional steps be taken for staff:**

- Sick employees should stay home and not return to work until they have met criteria to return to work**
  - Employees who appear to have symptoms or who become ill while at work should immediately be separated from others and sent home.
  - Document and communicate sick leave policies to employees and staff.
  
- Consider implementing flexible sick leave policies that permit adherence to public health isolation and quarantine guidance.**
  
- Encourage the use of masks and frequent handwashing by employees.**
  
- Assign duties to vulnerable workers that minimize their contact with customers and other employees.**
  
- Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.**
  
- Encourage employees to maintain more than 6 feet of separation from other individuals, when possible.**



- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees in accordance with public health recommendations.**
- Provide adequate supplies in employee workspaces to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, disinfecting wipes, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.**
- Train all employees in the above safety actions.**
- See [Department of Labor and Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) COVID-19 guidance for employers and workers.](#)**

The list of EPA-approved disinfectant products for emerging viral pathogens expected to be effective against COVID-19 can be [accessed here](#).

For additional guidance on cleaning, visit CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#) page and CDC's [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#).

**For COVID-19 questions, please call the Arizona COVID-19 Hotline at: 1-844-542-8201**

For more information on Arizona's response to COVID-19, please visit: [azhealth.gov/COVID19](https://azhealth.gov/COVID19).