

July 14, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program Temporary Alley Closure Permit

What is the Outdoor Dining Program?

The COVID-19 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program is a temporary program for restaurants interested in expanding dining seating into private walkways and parking facilities and the County road right-of-way, including sidewalks, alleys, and parking spaces. The program is intended to address the indoor capacity limitations restaurants are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What options are available under the Outdoor Dining Program?

Restaurants in unincorporated Los Angeles County may apply for the following permits or parking designations:

- Public sidewalks
- Parking spaces (parklets)
- Alley and street closures
- Designation of a curbside as 15-minute parking
- Private Parking Lots

What is the Temporary Alley Closure Permit option?

A temporary alley closure permit allows restaurant owners and sponsors to close an alley to vehicular traffic for outdoor dining during the COVID-19 emergency. The County has developed [guidelines](#) which outline the responsibilities and requirements for restaurants under this temporary permit.

Who can apply for a Temporary Alley Closure Permit?

Sponsors and owners of restaurants located in an unincorporated County community on a street maintained by Los Angeles County Public Works may apply if the proposed temporary alley closure location meets the minimum criteria as outlined in the [guidelines](#). If you are unsure if your restaurant is in unincorporated Los Angeles County, you may [check here](#).

If your restaurant is located in the City of Los Angeles, visit [L.A. Al Fresco](#) to apply.

Where can I apply?

Applications may be submitted through [EPIC-LA](#), the County's Electronic Permitting & Inspections portal. Follow these [step-by-step instructions](#) on how to apply.

How long will the Temporary Alley Closure Permit be valid?

The temporary permits are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2020. However, Public Works may extend this date depending on the health officer orders that are in effect at the time.

Are there different application options?

Applicants may choose to have Public Works design and install k-rail type traffic controls around the proposed alley closure area (Option 1), or the applicant may choose to hire an engineer and a contractor to design and install k-rail or other acceptable traffic safety barrier at the temporary alley closure site (Option 2).

What is the cost to apply?

Depending on the characteristics and usage of the alley or road, closure of these facilities may take different forms and vary in cost and scale. Restaurant owners interested in closing an alley or road may contact Public Works at (626) 458-3901 to obtain more information and an estimated cost. Payment of fees and/or a deposit may be necessary.

What information is required to apply?

1. Acknowledgment agreeing to the Sponsor Requirements described in the [guidelines](#).
2. Description of the temporary alley closure dining furnishings and equipment (e.g., tables, chairs, etc.).
3. Dimensioned site plan depicting the location of the proposed temporary alley closure along with all pertinent existing roadway features including, without limitation, the following:
 - a. Sidewalk
 - b. Parking stalls
 - c. Adjacent bicycle lane or vehicular travel lane
 - d. Location of existing utility pullboxes in the sidewalk and in the street
 - e. Location of catch basins/drains
 - f. Existing stopping/parking restrictions
 - g. Nearby Driveways
 - h. Permanent above-ground street fixtures such as utility poles, streetlights, parking meters, electrical boxes, fire hydrants, and newspaper stands

The site plan should also depict the proposed layout of the temporary alley closure dining furnishings and equipment with a 5-foot obstruction-free pedestrian path into and throughout the alley closure.

4. Evidence of Commercial General Liability Insurance with a minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence limit, naming the County of Los Angeles as an additional insured.
5. A copy of the restaurant's valid health permit.
6. Letters of support from adjacent businesses, residents and/or tenants that also utilize the alley to access their properties. Public Works may require, in its sole discretion, that the applicant provide additional letters of support from additional parties. This written support may be in the form of a letter or email.
7. Detailed traffic control plans signed and stamped by a licensed professional engineer in the State of California, showing the location of any proposed traffic safety barriers signing, and/or striping (Option 2 only).

What are the hours of operation allowed in the alley closure?

Outdoor dining in the alley closure is permitted daily from 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Will a restaurant be able to serve alcohol?

Consumption of alcoholic beverages within the temporary outdoor dining areas can only occur if the existing establishment is authorized to sell alcoholic beverages by a valid Conditional Use Permit and is "deemed approved" pursuant to [Los Angeles County Code Section 22.140.030 \(Alcoholic Beverage Sales\)](#) AND has obtained a COVID-19 Temporary Catering Authorization from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

How can I find the latest Public Health protocols for restaurants?

The latest Department of Public Health protocols can be accessed [here](#).

What other resources are available to restaurants and business owners?

Learn more about the County's response to COVID-19, including resources to business and residents, at covid19.lacounty.gov.

Where can I find more information about the Outdoor Dining Program?

For more information and general inquiries you may visit <https://pw.lacounty.gov/outdoor-dining/> or call (626) 458-3901.