

July 10, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program Temporary Sidewalk Dining Permit

What is the COVID-19 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program?

The COVID-19 Temporary Outdoor Dining Program is a temporary program for restaurants interested in expanding dining seating into the County road right-of-way, including sidewalks, due to indoor capacity limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What options are available under the COVID-19 Temporary 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 Sidewalk Dining Permit Option?

A Temporary Sidewalk Dining Permit allows restaurant owners to utilize the sidewalk space in front of their property for outdoor dining purposes 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 Sidewalk Dining Permit?

Restaurants in an unincorporated County community on a street maintained by Los Angeles County Public Works may apply. 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 the city's website and learn more about the [L.A. Al Fresco Outdoor Dining Program](#).

Where can I apply?

Restaurant operators may submit an online application to Public Works through the County's Electronic Permitting and Inspections portal, [EPIC-LA](#). Follow the [step-by-step instructions](#) to guide you.

How long will the Temporary Sidewalk Dining Permit be valid?

Refer to program guidelines for permit expiration date. However, Public Works may extend this date depending on the health officer orders that are in effect at the time of expiration.

If restaurants wish to continue sidewalk dining service after the program ends, restaurants may contact (626) 458-4921 for more information on obtaining a permanent, paid permit.

What is the cost of a Temporary Sidewalk Dining Permit?

There is no cost for a Temporary Sidewalk Dining Permit.

What information is required to apply?

The following information is required to obtain a temporary sidewalk dining permit:

- A copy of the restaurant's valid Health Permit
- Evidence of Commercial General Liability insurance with a minimum \$1,000,000 per occurrence limit, naming the County of Los Angeles as an additional insured.
- Sketch or drawing of the proposed outdoor sidewalk dining layout depicting:
 - Signed acknowledgment agreeing to the Applicant Requirements outlined in the [guidelines](#).
 - Dimensions of building frontage and proposed dining area
 - Width of sidewalk
 - 5-foot obstruction-free pedestrian path
 - Any above-ground obstructions (e.g., streetlights, utility poles)
 - Furnishings and equipment
- Description of the sidewalk encroachments (e.g. tables, chairs, etc.)

How soon after applying can I offer outdoor dining services?

A restaurant can offer outdoor dining services once Public Works approves the application, and a temporary permit is issued. Typically, restaurants can expect to receive a temporary permit within 3-4 business days upon Public Works' receipt of a complete application.

What are the hours of operation allowed on the sidewalk?

Outdoor dining on the sidewalk 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.