

City of Porterville

Guidelines for Expanded Outdoor Dining During Covid-19



Preface

The City of Porterville has developed these guidelines for outdoor dining to assist our restaurant businesses in providing expanded seating capacity in the public right-of-way and on private spaces for in-person restaurant dining as allowed for by the State of California and Tulare County COVID-19 Health Orders (Health Orders). These guidelines are temporary in nature and will only be in place during this time of restricted restaurant operations or up until January 31, 2021, whichever occurs earlier.

The City of Porterville will be allowing restaurants to utilize sidewalks, public parking spaces, and/or in parking spaces in privately owned shopping centers, for the purposes of providing outdoor dining areas. Specific restrictions and guidelines for each of these locations are outlined in this guidebook.

State of California

Effective as of June 6, 2020, the State of California is permitting outdoor dining. General requirements include, but are not limited to:

- The establishment a written, workplace-specific COVID-19 prevention plan. State of California COVID-19 Industry Guidelines for Dine-In Restaurants can be currently found at <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-outdoor-restaurants--en.pdf>. Facilities that open for outdoor dining must offer curbside pickup, takeaway, and/or delivery service alternatives. Lines for pickup or takeaway must be in a separate area from the outdoor dining area to prohibit patrons from unnecessarily accessing the outdoor dining area.
- Pursuant to State licensing, alcohol may be sold to patrons in conjunction with a meal, but it may not be sold independently, and bar areas must remain closed to customers.
- Patrons are required to wear a face covering except when sitting at a table.

Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Dining Permit

The City has developed a no-fee streamlined encroachment permit application for temporary outdoor dining. The intent of this permit is to be temporary in nature and to be in place only during the Health Orders restrictions on restaurant operations or up until January 31, 2021, whichever occurs earlier.

The following documents are required in order to process a permit for outdoor seating in the City of Porterville:

- Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Dining Permit Application
- Certificate of Liability Insurance and Endorsements
- Site Plan diagram of proposed outdoor dining lay-out

The Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Dining Permit application is available on the City's website (<https://www.ci.porterville.ca.us>).

General Guidelines for all Outdoor Dining Areas

The following general guidelines apply to all areas:

- **Adequate Clearance for Social Distancing.** Any outdoor table and seating must maintain a minimum sidewalk clearance and/or pedestrian through zone of 6-feet from any physical obstruction to allow pedestrians to maintain adequate social distancing when passing by patrons seated at a table. The physical obstruction includes light poles, fire hydrants, trees, or other barriers and entryways or display window of adjacent businesses, unless authorized by the adjacent business.
- **Seating Area Allowance for Social Distancing.** The seating provided shall allow for patrons to maintain a minimum 6-foot social distance from the nearest group of other patrons seated in the same area.
- In addition to the cleaning and sanitary measures, tables must be arranged to ensure that no customer is sitting within six feet of any other customer at a separate table.
- Patrons at a single table are limited to no more than six, and they must be from the same household or living unit.
- **ADA Compliance.** Outdoor seating areas must comply with all requirements of the California Building Code, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and provide sufficient clearance and walkway space to allow safe access and egress. Restaurants must ensure that a minimum 3-foot ADA path of travel is maintained throughout the areas for patrons to access tables provided.
- **Temporary Fixtures.** Tables, seating, umbrellas, heating lamps, planters, platforms or flooring shall achieve California Building Code and ADA compliance, and any approved physical barriers to mark the seating area are the only items permitted in the public right-of-way. These items must be designed to be weighted down for wind protection, removable, and minimize tripping hazards.
- **Alcohol Service.** Restaurants and food establishments licensed by the State of California will be permitted to sell and allow on-premise consumption of alcoholic beverages. Alcohol service is only allowed under full-service conditions and alcoholic beverages consumed in the outdoor dining premises are not allowed to be provided in to-go containers. Establishments that serve alcoholic beverages in the outdoor dining area shall be required to meet all requirements of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations governing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Visit the ABC website for their specific COVID-19 regulatory updates.
- **No Outdoor Food Preparation.** Outdoor food preparation is not permitted. No heating, cooking or open flames are permitted in the outdoor dining space or public rights-of-way.
- **Amplification of noise.** Amplification of music or other sounds is generally prohibited for these temporary uses, and for any proposed use of amplified music or an intercom system, if allowed an amplification permit will be required. The application may be found at the following location: <http://www.ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/ParksandLeisure/documents/OutsideAmplifierPermit.pdf>

Music volume must be adjusted so that workers can maintain social distance from customers to hear orders.

- **Site Maintenance.** Outdoor seating areas shall be maintained free of litter, refuse and debris. The area shall be scrubbed and mopped to remove any food or drink stains on a daily basis by the permittee. Such cleaning shall be in accordance with the City's Storm Water Management and Discharge Control Program, which prohibits any discharge other than storm water into the storm water drainage system.

- **Tents or Shade Structures.** Umbrellas and other decorative material shall be fire-retardant, pressure-treated or manufactured of fire-resistant material. No portion of an umbrella shall be less than six (6) feet, eight (8) inches (eighty (80) inches) above the sidewalk. Tents or any structures shall be installed in an *approved* manner that is inspected by both the Fire Department and the Building Division prior to being occupied. The use of tents or shade structures in excess of 400 square feet will require coordination with and approval from the Porterville Fire Department. To request more information contact (559) 782-7526.
- **Space Heaters.** Space heaters are permitted if they are an outdoor approved type, are located in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and California Fire Code, and are located at least two (2) feet from the edge of any umbrella canvas, any foliage, or any other flammable object or material. Use will require coordination with and approval from the Porterville Fire Department. To request more information contact (559) 782-7526.
- **Hours of Operation.** The outdoor dining areas shall adhere to the same approved hours of operation as the existing restaurant
- **Lighting.** Temporary outdoor lighting in compliance with the Porterville Development Ordinance is allowed. Lighting shall be turned off whenever the restaurant is closed and/or the outdoor dining area is not in use.
- **Removal of Items.** All items installed to support outdoor dining shall be temporary in nature and removed at such the time the City so orders. Upon removal of these items, the site shall be restored to its previous condition within 48 hours.
- **Restrooms.** Restaurant patrons shall have access to the restroom(s) affiliated with the subject restaurant.

Sidewalk Dining Areas

Sidewalk dining involves the placement of tables and chairs in the public sidewalk area. Businesses may request the closure of sidewalk immediately adjacent to the restaurant with Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Dining Permit. Furthermore, Businesses may request the closure of on-street public parking spots directly adjacent to the business frontage, for use as a buffer or extended entrance area (no dining in on-street parking spots is permitted).

The following specific conditions apply to these areas:

Restaurants using these areas will need to provide their own furniture for use of by the patrons and will be responsible for securing their furniture when not in use.

Restaurants that are providing alcohol service must meet all requirements of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations governing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

- Signage – when sidewalk and/or on-street parking closure is requested, the applicant shall provide detour signage to ensure pedestrians are made aware of alternative routes.
- The applicant shall notify all residents and businesses that will be affected by the sidewalk or on-street parking closure.
- Barricades - All parking stalls adjacent to the sidewalk dining areas shall be closed and have barricades as provided by the City of Porterville.

Public Parking Dining Areas

The City is providing the opportunity to restaurants in the Downtown District to request outdoor dining in portions of the public parking lots located near restaurants.

The following specific conditions apply to these areas:

- Restaurants using these areas will need to provide their own furniture for use by the patrons and will be responsible for securing their furniture when not in use.
- Barricades must be used to protect patrons from vehicular traffic and shall be provided by the City of Porterville.
- Restaurants that are providing alcohol service must meet all requirements of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations governing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Private Parking Lot Dining Areas

Private parking lot areas refer to shopping centers, strip malls, and stand-alone commercial properties that have their own designated parking areas. The City of Porterville is temporarily suspending requirements restricting the provision of outdoor dining, minimum parking standards as codified in Municipal Code **, and planning application conditions of approval related to parking and outdoor dining with an approved Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Dining Permit. Suspending these requirements will temporarily allow restaurants to provide outdoor dining in their respective private parking lots. Arrangements for outdoor dining must be worked out with and agreed to by the property owner for each location. The City shall not be a party to discussions or arrangements concerning the leasing or use of outdoor space on private property.

The following specific conditions apply to these areas:

- Restaurants must have the written permission of the property owner in order to use the parking space areas.
- The parking lots must still comply with all California Building Code and ADA standards, including ADA paths of travel and adequate provision of handicapped parking spaces pursuant to California Building Code Section 11B.
- Restaurants that are providing alcohol service must meet all requirements of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations governing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- Access to fire hydrants, fire hose connections for sprinkler systems, and entrances and exits of all buildings shall not be obstructed at any time by barriers or seating. The twenty (20) feet fire lane shall not be obstructed at any time. There shall be a minimum of forty (40) inches in distance separating the edge of a table or chair to a fire department connection.
- Consideration should be given to maintaining adequate parking supply on-site to prevent spillover parking in adjacent residential areas
- Seating areas shall occupy a specifically approved and defined location that does not disrupt the normal function of the site or its circulation. The area shall be located outside of any fire lane or fire access way.

For More Information:

For Questions or additional information regarding these Outdoor Dining Guidelines or the Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Dining Encroachment Permit application, please contact:

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