

Office of **Liquor and Gaming** Regulation

Easing COVID-19 restrictions



Thursday 14 May 2020

Dear licensee

I am pleased our collective commitment to reduce the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted into a low number of new cases over recent weeks. This puts us in a good position to gradually, but cautiously, ease restrictions.

The [Queensland Roadmap to Easing Restrictions](#) outlines three stages of how restrictions will be eased, with stage 1 beginning tomorrow (Friday 15 May) at 11.59pm. If we continue to successfully 'flatten the curve,' it is anticipated that **stage 2** will commence on 12 June 2020 and **stage 3** on 10 July 2020.

As licensed venues are some of the first businesses allowed to open progressively **this email** provides further information on **how stage 1 applies** to you.

You will also receive a list of Q&A's in relation to stage 1 tomorrow.

Restricted seated dining

In **stage 1**, if you operate a licensed restaurant, café, pub, registered club, RSL club or hotel, you may offer seated dining for:

- up to a maximum of **10 patrons** at a time if you are in metropolitan Queensland; or
- up to a maximum of **20 patrons** at a time if you are in a specified Local Government Area (LGA) in [outback Queensland](#) as long as these patrons are local and can provide proof of residence.

The patron limit only applies to in-venue dining if an area of 4 square metres per patron is provided. If you have a small venue that can't cater for 10 patrons at 4 square metres per patron, you will need to reduce the number of patrons. The limit must not be exceeded, even if you have the space.

The patron limit does not apply to takeaway customers, but people ordering, waiting or collecting takeaway must be 1.5 metres apart and 4 square metres provided.

On-premises consumption of liquor only with a meal

In **stage 1**, the sale and supply of liquor for consumption on premises must occur with a meal. This means that casual drinking without a meal, such as at a bar, is prohibited. Under the *Liquor Act 1992* a meal is food of sufficient substance served to a person sitting at a table, or similar fixed structure, with cutlery. Alcohol must be served to patrons at their table.

No gaming is allowed in stage one.

Suspension of ID scanning

If you are normally required to operate ID scanning under the Liquor Act, you **do not need to** in stage 1. This will be reviewed again ahead of stage 2.

What you must do before re-opening

Update your WHS plan

If you want to re-open for seated dining in Stage 1, 2 or 3, you must take practical steps to protect your employees and customers from the risk of exposure to COVID-19. This includes updating your work health and safety (WHS) plan to include COVID-19 planning and management. This [template](#) may help.

Complete COVID-19 Safe Checklist

As part of your **WHS plan**, you must complete a [COVID-19 Safe Checklist](#). This is for 'high risk' industries, such as those who offer in-venue dining. This checklist helps ensure the well-being of staff and patrons, hygiene and cleaning and record keeping.

Complete COVID Safe Training Course

You must ensure existing employees undertake a free online COVID Safe training course **within two weeks** of re-opening. Employees who start work after this two-week period must complete the course **prior** to commencing.

This training course is being developed by the Queensland Government in conjunction with TAFE Queensland. You can [register your interest here](#) to be notified once the course is available.

Your WHS plan and COVID-19 Safe Checklist **do not** need to be approved by a government authority but **do** need to be displayed in a visible location at your licensed venue before re-opening.

Moving towards stages 2 and 3

If all goes well, stage 2 contemplates a further easing of restrictions for seated dining.

Under stage 2, metropolitan Queensland licensed restaurants, cafés, pubs, registered clubs, RSL clubs and hotels may have **up to** 20 patrons, while those in outback Queensland may have **up to** 50 local patrons at a time. Under the current roadmap, casual drinking and gaming will still be prohibited.

If you want to offer in-venue dining to more patrons, you will have the **option** to develop and implement your own **local COVID-19 Safe Plan**, that is consistent with an **approved industry-wide COVID-19 Safe Plan**.

Industry-wide COVID-19 Safe Plans, based on best practice, are currently being developed by several hospitality industry associations.

Under **stage 2**, once these industry-wide plans have been **approved** by the **relevant health authority**, OLGR will provide further information on how you can develop your **local COVID-19 Safe Plan**.

If you choose **to not** implement a **local COVID-19 Safe Plan**, you will be required to continue to comply with your **WHS plan** and the **COVID-19 Safe Checklist** and can only offer in-venue dining for up to 20 patrons (in metropolitan Queensland) and up to 50 patrons (in outback Queensland) at

a time.

The Framework for COVID Safe Businesses can be viewed [here](#).

I will provide more information about Stages 2 and 3, and COVID-19 Safe Plans closer to commencement.

In the meantime, if you intend to offer seated dining in **stage 1**, please review your **WHS plan** and complete the **COVID-19 Safe Checklist**.

Regards

Victoria Thomson
Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation
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