

## **Franklin Board of Health**

### **Outdoor Dining Frequently Asked Questions**

Question: When can I begin outdoor dining?

Answer: Restaurants may provide outdoor table service at the commencement of Phase 2.

Question: Do I have to comply with sector-specific COVID-19 workplace safety rules for restaurants for outdoor dining?

Answer: Yes, restaurants must comply with [sector-specific requirements for outdoor dining](#).

Question: Where do I find the sector-specific requirements?

Answer: The sector-specific requirements can be found on the [Town of Franklin website](#).

Question: Can I have outdoor dining in the restaurant's parking lot?

Answer: Yes, the restaurant can utilize a quarter of the parking lot for outdoor dining but can not take up any handicap parking spaces. If serving alcohol, each licensee must have their liquor license premises approved by the Local Licensing Authority (LLA). If licensed for liquor, please contact Chrissy Whelton, the Town Administrator's office [cwhelton@franklinma.gov](mailto:cwhelton@franklinma.gov)

Question: Do I need to own the parking lot in order to have outdoor dining?

Answer: No, a letter is required from the owner of the parking lot be submitted to the town before starting outdoor dining.

Question: Is there any other place I can have outdoor dining?

Answer: No, outdoor dining is allowed in the restaurant's parking lot only.

Question: Do I need an attendant to assist with traffic and parking?

Answer: Yes, an attendant is needed to assist with traffic and parking. Police detail may be required as well depending on the situation.

Question: Do I need handicap accessibility seating in the outdoor dining area?

Answer: Yes, handicap accessibility seating is required for the outdoor dining area.

Question: Can I have a tent for outdoor dining?

Answer: Yes, a tent is allowed when the building department receives a flame proof certificate and a building permit and the inspection of the Building Commissioner, Gus Brown.

Question: What other requirements are needed when having a tent for outdoor seating?

Answer: Other requirements include but are not limited to; Emergency lighting, the owner must not have a remote propane tank under the tent, all propane tanks must be approved by the fire department and a gas permit and a gas inspection must be secured, a carbon monoxide, smoke

detector, and fire extinguisher are required. Tent stake lines shall not be a trip or any other hazard.

Question: Are there additional requirements for a tent with side covers?

Answer: Yes, the additional requirement for a tent with side covers is emergency exit signs are required.

Question: What is the occupancy allowed under a tent with a roof or with a roof and side covers?

Answer: No more than a 99 occupancy load depending on sq. ft. of tent area allowed under a tent with a roof or a roof with side covers. Seating arrangements shall be in accordance with Emergency Executive orders and the State Building Code.

Question: Why can't I have more than a 99 occupancy load?

Answer: More than a 99 occupancy load will require the tent to have a sprinkler system.

Question: Are lit candles allowed at outdoor dining?

Answer: No, lit candles are not allowed.

Question: Do I need an outdoor restroom available for patrons?

Answer: No, an outdoor restroom is not required but if one is obtained it needs to be handicap accessible.

Question: Can I put tables and chairs on the sidewalk or any public way?

Answer: No, sidewalks and public ways are not allowed to be used for tables, chairs or any other business operation under any circumstance.

Question: Can I have portable heaters?

Answer: Yes, they must be listed and inspected.

Question: How far away from a building should a tent be located?

Answer: At least 10 feet.

Question: Can I have storage under the tent?

Answer: Storage shall be limited.

Question: Can I have extension cords?

Answer: Extension cords should be limited in use and secured to reduce trip hazards. All electrical installations must comply with the electrical code.

Question: Can I have outdoor lighting?

Answer: Outdoor lighting must be listed and kept away from flammable materials.