Washington Bars and Restaurants Outdoor Dining Guidelines

The following guidelines are in effect through the duration of Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan. The guidelines are subject to change depending on further guidance from the State of Illinois and public health officials.

- Physical Separation: In accordance with guidance from the State, all tables must be spaced at least six feet apart. They cannot be placed on sidewalks or within right-of-way.
- Reservations: It is highly recommended that bars and restaurants only allow outdoor dining through a reservation system.
- Emergency Access: Tables can be placed anywhere on private property but must not block entrances, exits, fire lanes, fire hydrants, or ADA parking spaces. ADA parking spaces may be moved as long as they do not violate the Americans With Disabilities Act.
- Dining Space Delineation: There must be a clear delineation between the dining area and any designated parking spaces and aisles. Options for a barrier can include, but are not limited to, construction barricades, traffic cones, granite blocks, bollards, planter boxes, hay bales, and fencing.
- Tents: Outdoor dining is allowed either with or without a tent. If tents are utilized, they must be at least 50% open and tables must be within eight feet from any opening according to State guidelines.
- Hours of Operation: A bar or restaurant is allowed to establish its desired hours of operation provided that it does not violate its liquor license (if applicable) and that any outside noise does not violate the City’s noise regulations.
- Bathrooms: One bathroom must be available at each restaurant. Only one person is allowed in the bathroom at any given time and it must be cleaned by a restaurant employee following each use. A portable bathroom can be utilized in lieu of allowing customer access inside the building.
- Lighting: Portable lighting can be utilized provided it is directed solely on the subject property and is shut off within one hour of the closing to the public.
- Use of Adjacent Properties: Adjacent properties can be used for customer seating following consent from the property owner.
- Building Permits: No building or sign permits are required as part of any modifications done to conform to the outdoor dining regulations.
- Alcohol: Any licensed business serving alcohol for consumption on site must adhere to a site plan submitted to and approved by the Police Department. Licensees authorized to sell packaged liquor for carry out may continue to do so but may not allow consumption on site without an approved site plan.