



City of Boston  
Mayor Martin J. Walsh  
Licensing Board

Commissioners:  
Kathleen M. Joyce, Chairman  
Keeana S. Saxon  
Liam P. Curran  
Executive Secretary:  
Lesley Delaney Hawkins

## **THE LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON'S ADVISORY REGARDING UPDATES TO THE COMMONWEALTH'S SAFETY STANDARDS FOR RESTAURANTS**

Issued: September 23, 2020

On September 22, 2020, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued [updates](#) to the previously issued safety standards for restaurants due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. On September 23, 2020, Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced how these updates will be implemented for both indoor and outdoor dining in the City of Boston. These updated safety standards go into effect on September 28, 2020.

The Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the "Board") issues this advisory regarding the implementation of the updates to the safety standards in the City of Boston. This Advisory should be adhered to in conjunction with all previous [advisories](#) issued by the Board and all other applicable guidance.

1. Licensees must read the updates to the safety standards in their entirety and in conjunction with all other applicant guidance as the Advisory is meant to supplement the same and is not exhaustive.
2. **The maximum size of any party, including children, will remain at six (6) until further notice from the Board.** Public health and public safety are of the utmost importance and due to incoming public health metrics the Board and the City of Boston are not increasing the maximum size of parties at this time regardless of the updates to the safety standards.
3. **Bar seating will be permitted only if:**
  - a. Any active work areas or working staff behind the bar remain at least six (6) feet away from the edge of the bar; **or**
  - b. There is a physical barrier such a plexiglass separating patrons from the area behind the bar that is at least thirty (30) inches high with a gap or opening at the bottom of no more than eight (8) inches to allow for food and drink service.
4. Patrons must be seated at the bar in parties of no larger than six (6) and each party must be separated by a minimum of six (6) feet from any other party. No standing or walk-up service at the bar is permitted.

The Advisory is issued in response to the ongoing public health crisis related to the spread of COVID-19 and will be strictly enforced by the Board and the Boston Police Department. Failure to adhere to any of the above, previously issued orders or advisories currently in effect, the Rules and Regulations of the Board and the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the sale and service of alcohol will result in disciplinary action from the Board including, but not limited to, the immediate suspension of any license issued by the Board.

Claims of ignorance of the law, the Legislation, or the Advisory are not a defense.

Please refer to [boston.gov/coronavirus](https://boston.gov/coronavirus) for more information on COVID-19. Any questions should be directed to the Board's Executive Secretary, Lesley Delaney Hawkins, Esq., who can be reached at (617) 635-4170 or [Lesley.hawkins@boston.gov](mailto:Lesley.hawkins@boston.gov).

For the Board,

*Lesley Delaney Hawkins*

Lesley Delaney Hawkins, Esq.  
Executive Secretary & General Counsel