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Dear Licensee/DPS

SAFE RE-OPENING ADVICE FOR PUBS, BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Social distancing, safety, licensing and prevention of nuisance advice for pubs, bars and restaurants, to protect you, your staff and your customers.

The Government have now given the go-ahead for a limited re-opening of our pubs, bars and restaurants, however, as a licensee it is vitally important that you follow the Government's current COVID-19 Secure Guidelines.

You can access the current guidance [here](#).

The government defines these premises as any food preparation or service setting where food and drink is sold for consumption at venues or for take away or delivery, for example, restaurants, pubs, bars, beer gardens, food to go, cafés, social and similar clubs operating as bars and restaurants, mobile catering and contract catering or similar environments where food and drink is purchased and consumed at a venue in indoor or outdoor areas or offered for take away or delivery.

The key element of any proposed re-opening plan is a **Risk Assessment**. As an operator you must carry this out, in consultation with your employees, and you must make the results of this risk assessment known prior to re-opening to the public.

Other key areas are:

Indoor table service must be used where possible, alongside further measures such as assigning a single staff member per table (although in our view this does not mean one member of staff for each table but rather to restrict if possible several members of staff serving the same table).

Indoor gatherings are still limited to members of any two households (or support bubbles), while outdoor gatherings are limited to members of any two households (or support bubbles), or a group of at most six people from any number of households.

Outdoor table service should also be encouraged, although customers are permitted to stand outside if distanced appropriately. Where bar or counter service is unavoidable, steps should be taken to prevent customers from remaining at the bar or counter after ordering.

The guidance expects operators to make customers aware of, and encourage compliance with, limits on gatherings, for example, on arrival or on booking.

Toilet Provision, Toilets inside your premises should be open and carefully managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

You must also keep a 21 day temporary record of customers and visitors. This is to assist NHS Test and Trace requests for data if required. Therefore taking advance table bookings and recording details of customer groups is recommended for all premises.

Risk Assessment and Hygiene

Appropriate measures and services should be implemented so as to maintain hygiene and reduce personal contact, for example the use of Apps, Contactless Payments, table service, provision of hand sanitizers, queue management and capacity reduction.

The guidance detailed above covers safe working and operating practices as well as tips for social distancing within the premises, particularly toilets and high volume areas, etc.

Specific guidance on working safely during the coronavirus can be found on the HSE website which includes a risk assessment tool kit to help you document the control measures you put in place at your premises:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/index.htm>.

It very important that a key part of your documented risk assessment includes you calculating a safe social distanced seated capacity inside and outside your venue where appropriate.

The Government has updated guidance for food businesses to include a new section on the prevention of infection and a revised section on the management of outbreaks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-food-businesses/guidance-for-food-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

For advice from the Food Standards Agency on reopening your food business during COVID 19 go to:

[Reopening checklist for food businesses during COVID-19 | Food Standards Agency](#)

The Guidance on Destroying spoilt beer, cider, wine or made-made wine during COVID 19 was updated on 26 June 2020:

[Destroying spoilt beer, cider, wine or made-wine during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK](#)

Venue Co-Operation

The venue opening guidance requires and expects a large degree of cooperation between venues, as well as the Local Authority, on matters such as the staggering of entry times with other venues and arranging one-way travel routes between transport hubs and venues.

Such Co-Operation is essential so to ensure that social distancing is maintained in busy locations, neighbouring businesses are therefore encouraged to produce a joint risk assessment for external areas.

Islington Council's Licensing and Environmental Health teams can provide support in the form of advice, guidance and business visits to assist during this period. So we request that venues notify us by e-mail if intend to open and we will arrange to visit or speak to you before Saturday.

We have also set up a borough wide pub watch via Zoom at 2pm on 2nd Thursday, so hopefully we will be able to speak to people then. Please e-mail Licensing.Compliance@islington.gov.uk and we will forward the invite link.

High Risk Activities

The Re-Opening Guidance makes it clear that premises should not permit live performances, including drama, comedy or music to take place in front of a live audience.

All venues are required to take steps to avoid people needing to unduly raise their voices to each other which includes but is not limited to refraining from playing music or broadcasts that may encourage shouting, including if played at a volume that makes normal conversation difficult, loud background music, communal dancing, group singing or chanting.

If you are considering showing sport on TV to your customers, given the clear potential for harm that has been identified, it is expected that your Risk Assessment will clearly

detail the steps to be taken so as to avoid people raising voices and thereby manage this.

Licensing Objectives

Managers and staff must ensure that their premises are fully managed in compliance with the four licence objectives.

Given the higher usage of outside spaces and the related potential for public nuisance, the venue is expected to have adopted an outside area and customers noise management plan.

For example;

- Notices should be displayed advising customers to remain within the seated areas and not stand away from the premises or congregate on the street, parks, squares or gardens
- Staff must be tasked to monitor the outside area, to ensure that customers only stand drinking outside the premises and ensure all litter is cleaned up. You need to ensure that customers do not cause a noise nuisance and are well behaved.

In respect of crime and disorder and public safety, premises must have procedures in place to mitigate the potential risk of increased alcohol consumption leading to a breakdown in patron's Social Distancing and in more serious cases a higher risk of anti-social behaviour and crime associated with alcohol consumption.

It is key to approach the first few weekends with caution as customers will be keen to get out and socialise and your staff will need time to adjust to the new ways of working. Therefore both the Council and Police would recommend pre-booking customers during this period to allow a softer opening and allow everyone (staff and customers) to adjust to current social environment.

The normal licensing procedures, enforcement and review by all relevant parties are still in force, so all premises must build relevant controls into their documents and planning.

Designated Public Place Order or DPPO

The whole of Islington Borough is covered by a DPPO, this gives the Police and Accredited Council officers the power to require a person in a DPPO area not to drink alcohol within the area. A failure to comply with any request can lead to the surrender of alcohol, a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 or a £1000 fine

Customers should therefore be advised that they should not drink alcohol away from the premises, on the street or any other public area.

Business and Planning Bill 2020 and Off sales

This Bill amends the Licensing Act 2003. As a result, premises holding a licence authorising "on-sales" only i.e. within the red line of the plan have "off-sales" added to their licence without seeking an application.

The Bill also suspend any off sales specific conditions of a qualifying premises which would otherwise prevent such off sales.

There are exceptions for licensees who have previously made an application to add off sales authorisation to their licence within the last three years and were refused, or who had off-sales removed from their licence at a review in the last three years.

The Bill also allows for a fast track application for a '**Temporary Pavement Licence**' to provide tables and chairs on the highway. Contact the Street Trading Team for further information and application form, Street.Trading@islington.gov.uk

Note: The Bill does not override the Highways Act so anyone considering applying for tables and chairs should ensure that there is still a 1.8m pedestrian walkway left outside of their premises.

The sale of alcohol should be carried out from the designated bar areas/s currently shown on licence plan and payment for off-sales should be made via contactless payment where possible.

The premises must still operate with the four licensing objectives in mind when providing any off sales provision and/or external consumption area.

For licensing advice and information, please contact the licensing service on 0207 527 3031, Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, or email licensing.compliance@islington.gov.uk

CORONAVIRUS – ADVICE FOR BUSINESSES

Islington Council provides information and advice for businesses. You can sign up for regular updates by emailing businesssupport@islington.gov.uk

Advice on working safely can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

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