

# HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



## CHECKLIST FOR RESTAURANTS

Page 1 of 4

**Individuals are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth wherever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household, except when seated at the restaurant to eat or drink.**

The following are the health recommendations for all restaurants choosing to operate in Texas. Restaurants may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, contractors, and customers.

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these recommendations. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Restaurants should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Restaurants should also be mindful of federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address the needs of both workers and customers.

### Health recommendations for serving your customers:

- Groups should maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other groups at all times, including while waiting to be seated in the restaurant. The 6 feet of distance between groups seated at different tables is not required if the restaurant provides engineering controls, such as a partition, between the tables.
  - A booth may be next to another booth as long as a partition is constructed between the booths, and that partition is at least 6 feet tall above ground level.
  - Tables should generally be at least 6 feet apart from any part of another table. However, a restaurant may have tables at least 4 feet apart from any part of another table, provided the restaurant uses a partition between the tables that is at least 6 feet tall and 6 feet wide.
- Make a hand sanitizing station available upon entry to the restaurant.
- Dining:
  - Do not leave condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on an unoccupied table
  - Provide condiments only upon request, and in single use (non-reusable) portions or in reusable containers that are cleaned and disinfected after each use.
  - Use disposable menus (new for each patron), or clean and disinfect reusable menus after each use.
  - If a buffet is offered, restaurant employees serve the food to customers.
- Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized. Both parties should wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.

# HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



## RESTAURANTS: Page 2 of 4

### Health recommendations for your employees and contractors:

- Train all employees and contractors on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Screen employees and contractors before coming into the restaurant:
  - Send home any employee or contractor who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
  - Do not allow employees or contractors with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
    - In the case of an employee or contractor who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has *improvement* in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
    - In the case of an employee or contractor who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
    - If the employee or contractor has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
  - Do not allow an employee or contractor with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees and contractors wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the restaurant, and between interactions with customers.
- Have employees and contractors maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, measures such as hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

# HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



## RESTAURANTS: Page 3 of 4

### Health recommendations for your facilities:

- Take steps to ensure 6 feet social distancing is maintained at the bar between individual patrons, between patrons and wait staff, and between patrons and bar items such as clean glassware and ice. Such separation may be obtained by ensuring bartenders remain at least 6 feet from customers at the bar, such as by taping off or otherwise blocking bartenders from being within 6 feet of a seated customer, or the use of engineering controls, such as dividers, to keep individuals and/or the bar separate from other individuals.
- Consider having an employee or contractor manage and control access to the restaurant, including opening doors to prevent patrons from touching door handles.
- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, and chairs.
- Regularly and frequently clean restrooms, and document the cleanings.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees, contractors, and customers.
- Consider placing [readily visible signage](#) at the restaurant to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- Clean and disinfect the area used for dining (table, etc.) after each group of customers depart, including the disinfecting of tables, chairs, stalls, and countertops.
- Clean and sanitize restaurants daily.

### If you have video game equipment or other interactive amusements:

- Assign at least one employee or contractor full time to disinfect the video games and other interactive amusements. **Continuous disinfecting is needed to protect customers.**
- Disinfect all gaming equipment before and after customer use.
- Provide equipment disinfecting products throughout facility for use on equipment.
- Ensure only one player can play a game at a time.
- Provide for at least 6 feet of separation between games.

### Health recommendations for valet parking services:

- Take the temperature of each employee or contractor at the beginning of each shift.
- Utilize the following personal protective equipment for employees and contractors:
  - Cloth face coverings over the nose and mouth, or, if available, non-medical grade face masks over the nose and mouth
  - Single-use disposable gloves that are changed between every interaction with customers and/or vehicles

# HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS



## RESTAURANTS: Page 4 of 4

- Vehicle door handles, ignition switch, steering wheel, and shift knob should be wiped with disinfectant as the valet employee enters and exits the vehicle.
- All workstations and work equipment should be cleaned at the start and the end of each shift, as well as every hour during the shift. These workstations should include the valet podium, key storage locker, tablets, fee computers, receipt printers, etc.
- Valet parking operators should employ contactless payment whenever possible.
- For high volume operations, appropriate physical distancing indicators should be established to ensure customers maintain at least six feet of distance as they wait for their vehicle.
- Where possible, alternative parking options should be provided for customers who are uncomfortable with valet parking.
- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a business and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the business.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees, contractors, and customers.
- Have employees and contractors maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals.