



MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF SNOW HILL

TOWN OF SNOW HILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-01

COVID-19 TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/14/2020

OVERVIEW:

Because the Governor's Order allows outdoor restaurant seating, the following Temporary Town Policy permits restaurants to set up outdoor seating to increase throughput.

CHALLENGE:

Most restaurants do not have the availability to offer outdoor seating unless the restaurant encroaches onto Town property (defined as sidewalks and streets). Town sidewalks cannot be blocked for pedestrian use, and must maintain at 48" pedestrian right-of-way at all times.

TEMPORARY TOWN POLICY:

To utilize Town-owned parking spaces in front of or on the side of restaurants for outdoor seating, while maintaining social distancing under current COVID-19 safety protocols instituted by Governor Hogan.

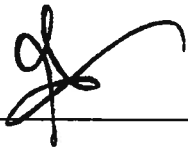
CONSIDERATIONS:

1. All restaurants, including cafés, are eligible to use Town property while COVID-19 social distancing protocols remain in place.
2. Participating restaurants or cafés shall submit an outdoor plan with drawings to include seating arrangements, barrier locations to delineated dining areas, signage placement and the location and maintenance of trash receptacles. The plan must demonstrate compliance with social distancing requirements. If the establishment has an existing liquor license, the plan shall also require alcohol consumption on premise only (except for takeout orders in sealed containers as permitted by the Worcester County Liquor Control Board) and a staffing plan.
3. Outdoor seating barriers:
 - a. As it relates to 3b and 3c below, a street-side barrier shall be equipped with a physical barrier with no physical means of ingress or egress. (The Town will make every effort to obtain jersey barriers from the State Highway Administration and/or private contractors.)
 - b. Sidewalk-side barriers shall have a rope barrier (at a minimum) with a controllable means of ingress or egress.

- c. Outside seating area - The size of the outdoor seating area is not intended to create more seating than is provided indoors under normal operations.
 - d. Permitted Seating Area within parallel parking spaces – spaces must be contiguous; not more than 2 spaces may be used for seating, with each end space having a physical barrier for protection.
 - e. Spaces MAY NOT be sublet, traded or leased.
4. All outdoor seating areas are to be used for the purpose of dining and not as an outdoor bar. Alcohol may be served ONLY with meals and patrons should depart upon finishing their meals. It is the responsibility of the restaurant ownership, management, hosts/hostesses and wait staff to educate the patrons as to expectations and to enforce the same.
 5. Alcohol may not be removed from the outdoor seating area at any time.
 - a. To-go alcohol purchases must not be opened.
 6. Restaurant owners must control the congregation of 'non-patrons' on the sidewalk and most importantly on the street side to ensure safe pedestrian and vehicle ingress and egress on the public roads and sidewalks.
 7. Outdoor seating shall end no later than 9:00pm daily.
 8. The outdoor seating policy is temporary and will automatically discontinue once restaurants are permitted to resume operations at full capacity, or unless otherwise ordered by the Town.
 9. The Town will assign spaces to each participating restaurant.
 10. For restaurants that are not located in the downtown area, business owners will be required to follow the same requirements for proposed outdoor seating. Those restaurants located in a strip mall-type environment must have the permission from private property ownership to utilize any outdoor parking.
 11. This policy is intended for restaurants and food service establishments. Special exceptions for non-food businesses must be requested in writing to the Mayor.

Outdoor seating shall be discontinued at the Town's sole discretion, both in total and individually, should unacceptable violations of the outdoor seating policy occur.

Issued under my hand and seal this 14th day of July, 2020.



Mayor Gary Weber