CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

June 12, 2020

PERMIT GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR DINING AND INDOOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Outdoor Dining

When the Governor announced guidelines for the opening of outdoor dining starting May 18, a City Department Work Group identified three subgroups of restaurants and streamlined the permitting process:

- **Restaurants already permitted for outdoor dining** should submit their outdoor seating arrangements and compliance with the new public health guidelines checklist to the Health Department. Click here for details.
- **Restaurants seeking to offer outdoor dining on private property not already permitted** must receive a Building Permit from the Building Inspection. This one permit incorporates both Fire and Health Department review, the checklist and outdoor seating arrangement plan. For the Viewpoint portal application, click here.
- **Restaurants requesting new outdoor dining use of space in the public realm**. The Work Group is also in discussions with restaurants and others examining other proposals for additional outdoor dining, and will report to City Council at their June 1 meeting for further discussion.

Restaurants already holding a liquor license need only advise the Liquor Commission, via email to reopen@liquor.nh.gov, that they will be applying that license to their outdoor extensions. For FAQs and additional information, go to: https://www.nh.gov/liquor/enforcement/industry/documents/industry-circular-reopen-outside-area-2020-08.pdf

Indoor Dining

With the Governor's order allowing, starting June 15, 2020, restaurants to offer indoor dining at 50% occupancy in Rockingham County (and appropriate 6-foot physical distancing), the following process is now in place:

Table spacing (both indoors and outdoors) should be maintained so people sitting at adjacent tables are more than six feet apart and servers should be able to maintain social distancing while interacting with tables. Seating guidelines showing different table styles and arrangements are posted in the Health Department web page, here. To streamline the process, prior to re-opening, all establishments must submit a completed re-opening Checklist and adjusted seating floor plans for approval, electronically via Viewpoint. (Select Covid-19 Reduced Indoor Seating Approval from the Health Department page on Viewpoint.)