

# PHASE TWO | ABC GUIDANCE



Phase Two of reopening Washington, DC allows for limited indoor dining at alcohol establishments. Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)-licensed establishments must adhere to the following provisions and all other applicable DC and federal laws and regulations.

**Questions? Contact ABRA's licensing division Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at [abc@dc.gov](mailto:abc@dc.gov) or (202) 442-4423.**

<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	On-Premises Retailer licensees including Convention Center food and alcohol retailers, hotels, multipurpose facilities, nightclubs, private clubs, restaurants, and taverns; common carriers; manufacturers with an on-site sales and consumption permit; caterers; and temporary license holders.
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor</b>   ABC licensees are not required to register with the District to reopen their existing indoor space.</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor</b>   Registration with the District is only required if the establishment is adding new or expanded outdoor seating in public or private space. Public space is subject to approval by the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT).</li> </ul>
<b>HOURS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   On-premises alcohol sales, service, and consumption must end at 10:00 p.m. daily. Table and bar seating must be cleared of all alcoholic beverages by the stop-service time. Establishments may remain open for on-premises dining—sans alcohol service— until 12:00 a.m. daily. A licensee may remain open to sell prepared food only for carry-out and delivery until the closing hour printed on their alcohol license</li> <li>• <b>Of Note</b>   Alcohol carry-out and delivery is permitted between 6:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. daily.</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL CAPACITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor</b>   Through December 13, occupancy must be limited to 50 percent of the lowest occupancy load or seating capacity on the certificate of occupancy. On and after December 14, occupancy must be limited to 25 percent capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor</b>   No percentage maximum.</li> </ul>
<b>SEATING CAPACITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   No more than six (6) persons may be seated at a table. Non-movable communal tables may be used if parties are seated at least six (6) feet apart from one another and divisions are clearly marked.</li> </ul>
<b>BAR SERVICE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   Guests may be seated at bars not being staffed or utilized by bartenders. All seated parties must be at least six (6) feet apart from one another. Guests standing at indoor or outdoor bars is prohibited.</li> </ul>
<b>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   All tables must be configured to allow for at least six (6) feet between parties. Patrons are required to wait outside at least six (6) feet apart until they are ready to be seated. Guests queuing to order, pick-up, pay or use the restroom must also be at least six (6) feet apart from one another.</li> </ul>
<b>FACE COVERINGS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   All employees, including kitchen staff, must wear face masks or coverings at all times. Guests should wear face masks or coverings at all times except for when eating or drinking, including when traveling to use the restroom.</li> </ul>
<b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   A food menu containing at least three (3) prepared food items (not pre-packaged snacks) must be offered at all times during operating hours. At least one (1) item must be purchased per table. Salad bars and buffets may operate as long as pre-portioned servings are prepared and served by staff. "BYOB" is not permitted.</li> </ul>
<b>ORDERING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   All on-premises dining must be seated. Guests may not be served or allowed to consume food or beverages while standing.</li> </ul>
<b>MUSIC &amp; ENTERTAINMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   Only background and recorded music, played at a conversational level, is permitted. No live music or entertainment such as trivia, DJs, or drag shows are permitted. Activities that require guests to be in close contact are prohibited.</li> </ul>
<b>RESERVATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indoor &amp; Outdoor</b>   Establishments are required to implement a reservation system. Reservations may be done online, by phone, or in-person—or a combination of all three. Contact information for at least one (1) person from each party should be collected to assist DC Health with contact tracing as needed.</li> </ul>

# PHASE TWO | ABC FAQs

Answers to frequently asked questions are detailed below and are regularly updated at [abra.dc.gov](http://abra.dc.gov).

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**Question (Q). Do I have to register to reopen indoors?**

Answer (A). No. Establishments are not required to register with the District to reopen their existing indoor space or licensed sidewalk cafe or summer garden. [Establishments that want to add new or expand outdoor dining space in public or private space must register with the District at \[coronavirus.dc.gov\]\(http://coronavirus.dc.gov\)](#). Public space applications are subject to approval by DDOT.

**Q. Is reopening my establishment during Phase Two optional?**

A. Yes. Reopening is at the discretion of each individual licensee. Additionally, under current law, a licensee that ceases operations or closes its premises for 21 or more days is required to place their ABC license in safekeeping. The ABC Board has delayed the tolling of the 21-day period until the public health emergency has ended.

**Q. What are the permitted service hours for indoor and outdoor dining?**

A. On-premises—indoor and outdoor—dining is permitted between 6:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m., daily. Patrons may not be seated before 6:00 a.m. or be allowed to remain on-premises after midnight even if ordered food or beverage items remain unfinished.

**Q. What are the permitted hours for on-premises alcohol sales, service, and consumption?**

A. Alcohol may be sold, served, and consumed on-premises—indoor and outdoor—between 6:00 a.m.- 10:00 p.m., daily.

**Q. Can patrons be allowed to finish consuming their alcoholic beverage(s) after 10:00 p.m.?**

A. No. Alcoholic beverages must be cleared from all table and bar seating by stop-service time. Patrons may remain on-premises till 12:00 a.m. daily to order or finish prepared food items. All patrons must vacate the premises by midnight.

**Q. Can I remain open for food carry-out and delivery after 12:00 a.m.?**

A. Licensees are permitted to remain open to sell food for carry-out and delivery until the closing hour printed on their alcohol license. To the extent possible, it is recommended that patrons wait outside a minimum of six (6) feet apart while waiting to receive their carry-out food order from the establishment.

**Q. What are the permitted hours for alcohol carry-out and delivery?**

A. Alcohol may be sold for carry-out and delivery with at least one (1) prepared food item between 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., daily. Advance registration with ABRA is required.

**Q. Can I still operate my new or expanded outdoor seating?**

A. Yes, new or expanded outdoor space that has been registered with the District can be utilized until December 31, 2021.

**Q. Can patrons be seated at an indoor or outdoor bar?**

A. Yes, provided parties are seated a minimum of six (6) feet from each other. Bartenders may not staff or prepare food or drink orders at bars made available for guest seating.

**Q. Can I seat guests at communal tables?**

A. Yes. Parties must be seated at least six (6) feet apart from another and six (6) feet divisions must be clearly marked by tape or another application that discourages tampering.

**Q. What qualifies as a prepared food item?**

A. Prepared food is considered food that has been assembled such as a sandwich, salad, smoothie, etc. Prepackaged items such as chips and cookies can be ordered in addition to prepared food but do not satisfy the prepared food requirement.

**Q. Is live music or entertainment permitted indoors or outdoors.**

A. No. Only background and recorded music is permitted that is played at a conversational level that cannot be heard inside residences. Prohibited entertainment includes vocalists, ensembles, drag shows, DJs, trivia, emceeing, dancing, pool, and darts.

**Q. Can I serve guests alcoholic beverages while they wait to be seated?**

A. No. All guests must be seated at tables or the bar when taking or serving their food or drink orders.

**Q. Am I allowed to serve a patron whose DC-issued license has expired during the public health emergency?**

A. DC Department of Motor Vehicles has extended the expiration date for all documents expiring March 1 through the duration of the health emergency, including driver licenses and non-driver identification cards.