



City of Boston  
Mayor Martin J. Walsh  
Licensing Board

Commissioners:  
Kathleen M. Joyce, Chairman  
Keeana S. Saxon  
Liam P. Curran  
Executive Secretary:  
Lesley Delaney Hawkins

## **THE LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON'S ADVISORY REGARDING GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2020**

Issued: August 10, 2020

On August 7, 2020, due to the ongoing public health crisis, Governor Charles Baker issued an [executive order](#) (the "Order") effective August 11, 2020, which, among other things, provides [additional requirements and guidance](#) for the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premise consumption and the operations of restaurants. The Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the "Board") issues this advisory regarding the Order and accompanying guidance (the "Advisory").

1. Licensees are responsible for reviewing the Order and accompanying guidance in their entirety as the Advisory is meant to supplement the same and is not exhaustive.
2. Effective August 11, 2020, alcohol sold for on-premise consumption must be accompanied by food prepared on-site. An item of prepared food must be ordered at the same time as the initial alcoholic beverage(s) order. One (1) or more shareable food items may be sufficient only if the shareable food item sufficiently serves the number of patrons in the party.
3. Potato chips, pretzels, and other pre-packaged or manufactured foods do not constitute food prepared on-site.
4. Any patron seeking to order an alcoholic beverage for on-premise consumption must consume prepared food in accordance with the Order, the guidance, and the Advisory.
5. Licensees are strongly encouraged to utilize employees to deliver food and beverages to seated patrons as opposed to having the same order and pick up food from a service area. Should patrons pick up food from a service area the Licensee must ensure that no lines form and there is no congregating.
6. Licensees must ensure that no lines are permitted to form inside or outside of the licensed premise. This prohibition on lines includes patrons picking up food and beverages or patrons waiting to be seated.
7. Licensees must ensure that patrons waiting to be seated are wearing masks and social distancing.
8. Licensees are strongly encouraged to take reservations or call ahead seating. Licensees should obtain contact information for someone in each party in order to facilitate contact tracing should it be necessary.
9. Any Licensee seeking to host an event at the licensed premise (e.g.: birthday party, baby shower, wedding) must adhere to the [indoor and outdoor event guidance](#) issued by the Commonwealth.

10. All other previously issued guidance, advisories, and executive orders remain in effect.

The Advisory is issued in response to the ongoing public health crisis related to the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and will be strictly enforced by the Board and the Boston Police Department. Failure to adhere to any of the above, previously issued orders or advisories currently in effect, the Rules and Regulations of the Board and the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the sale and service of alcohol will result in disciplinary action from the Board including, but not limited to, the immediate suspension of the any license issued by the Board.

Claims of ignorance of the law, the Legislation, or the Advisory are not a defense.

Please refer to [boston.gov/coronavirus](https://boston.gov/coronavirus) for more information on COVID-19. Any questions should be directed to the Board's Executive Secretary, Lesley Delaney Hawkins, Esq., who can be reached at (617) 635-4170 or [Lesley.hawkins@boston.gov](mailto:Lesley.hawkins@boston.gov).

For the Board,

*Lesley Delaney Hawkins*

Lesley Delaney Hawkins, Esq.  
Executive Secretary & General Counsel