



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY
REGARDING FOOD SERVICE AND GATHERINGS FOR
LICENSEES SELLING ALCOHOL FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION

On August 7, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker updated guidelines for Phase III, Step 1, of reopening the Commonwealth in light of COVID-19. The text of the updated protocols for on-premises consumption licensees may be found [HERE](#) (Safety Standards and Checklist: Restaurants) and the text of the order regarding gatherings may be found [HERE](#) (Revised Gatherings Order).

Licensees are reminded that until Phase IV commences all licensees licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption must provide seated food service with the sale of alcohol. The food must be prepared on-site and under a retail food permit issued by a local licensing authority pursuant to 105 CMR 590.00.

Beginning tomorrow, August 11, 2020, for each customer, an item of prepared food must be ordered at the same time as an initial alcoholic beverage(s) order. One or more shareable food item(s) may be ordered as long as it/they would sufficiently serve the number of people at the table. Items such as potato chips, pretzels, and other pre-packaged or manufactured foods do not constitute food “prepared on-site.”

Also effective tomorrow, any licensees holding private functions on their premises must limit attendance to 25 people for indoor events and 50 people for outdoor events. Food must also be served as described in the preceding paragraph.

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law. All questions should be directed to the ABCC Executive Director Ralph Sacramone at rsacramone@tre.state.ma.us or (617) 727-3040 x 731.

(Issued August 10, 2020)