

Pennsylvania Provides Clarifying Guidance to PLCB Licensees Regarding Operations During Targeted Mitigation

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board today issued clarifying guidance for licensees to reinforce the targeted [statewide mitigation efforts](#) at bars and restaurants in response to the recent rise in COVID cases. The Department of Health also recently updated [frequently asked questions about the orders](#).

The [clarifying PLCB guidance](#) for restaurant, retail dispenser, and hotel licensees (whether offering indoor or outdoor seating); club and catering club licensees; brewery, distillery, limited distillery, winery, and limited winery licensees; and [golf course licensees](#) is summarized below:

- Sales of alcohol for on-premises consumption are only permissible as part of a larger transaction that includes a meal purchase. The term “meal” is defined in section 406 of the Pennsylvania Liquor Code as “food prepared on the premises, sufficient to constitute breakfast, lunch or dinner.” The definition expressly states that a snack, such as pretzels, popcorn, chips, or similar food, does not meet the definition of a meal.
- A customer who wishes to consume alcohol on premise must also purchase a meal; a group of customers who wish to consume alcohol on premises may do so as long as a meal is part of the purchase made by the group.
- Additional drinks may be purchased while the customer is consuming the meal, but no further drinks may be purchased after the meal is finished.
- Bar service of food and/or alcohol is prohibited.
- For Pennsylvania manufacturers (breweries, distilleries, and wineries), meals may be provided by the licensee or by a third party, such as a food truck.
- Casinos may no longer provide drink service on the casino floor.
- If a club does not sell food, either directly or through a concessionaire, it cannot use its liquor license.
- The governor’s [additional order directing targeted mitigation measures](#) specifically prohibits businesses that meet the definition of a “nightclub” under the Clear Indoor Air Act from operating.

[View the PLCB guidance.](#)

[View frequently asked questions about the targeted mitigation orders.](#)

Enforcement of the order is occurring through the [Pennsylvania State Police](#) and [local law enforcement](#), the [Liquor Control Board](#), and the Department of Agriculture.

[For restaurants and bars, social distancing, mask-wearing and other mitigation measures must be employed to protect workers and patrons. In addition, occupancy is limited to 25 percent of the fire-code maximum occupancy for indoor dining, or 25 persons for a specific indoor event or gathering in a restaurant. The maximum occupancy limit includes staff.](#)

Events and gatherings must adhere to the gathering limitations outlined previously, and below:

- [Indoor events and gatherings of more than 25 persons are prohibited;](#)
- Outdoor events and gatherings of more than 250 persons are prohibited