

What about conference facilities? Can a conference with 25 people per room be held?

Yes, as long as each discrete gathering adheres to the Orders. Conferences should not allow for breakout sessions that create opportunities for the mixing and mingling of attendees. Facilities should be mindful of gatherings in common spaces such as hallways, bathrooms, etc. Singular events in large indoor spaces such as craft shows may not take place unless they adhere to the 25 person limit.

Are private catered events permitted? For example, when a graduation party or wedding is held in a local hall and catered, do those events adhere to the 25 person limit or the 50/25 percent maximum capacity for indoor dining?

A wedding or graduation party would be considered an event and therefore limited to 25 indoors/250 outdoors. If a facility is hosting multiple, separate events, the total of those events can't exceed 50% of occupancy (25% if the establishment has not self-certified). If the event organizer is planning to host more than 25 people in a single indoor location the event should not be held.

I am hosting an indoor fundraiser at a local fire hall and planning to serve food, can I have over 25 people?

Even though food is being served this would be considered an event and no more than 25 people would be able to attend.

Can a restaurant host a single group of greater than 25 people as long as they don't exceed 50% of the maximum occupancy (25% if they haven't self-certified)?

No, discrete gatherings of individuals are limited to 25 people. Restaurants may, however, host a group of up to 25 in addition to their ordinary business if all other requirements, including particularly the overall 50% occupancy requirement (25% if not self-certified), can be adhered to.

Can a reception be held in a large facility with more than 25 people?

The limitation on indoor events or gatherings is not based on occupancy of a particular square footage. It is only defined by the number of people congregated together for that event. However, venues with multiple event spaces may have two events of 25 people or less at one time. If hosting multiple events organizers should be mindful of shared spaces like hallways or bathrooms where attendees may congregate.

The Order says "All bars are prohibited from conducting operations unless they offer sit-down, dine-in meals or take-out sales of alcoholic beverages."

What is considered a meal?

The PA Liquor Code defines a "meal" as "food prepared on the premises, sufficient to constitute breakfast, lunch or dinner; it shall not mean a snack, such as pretzels, popcorn, chips or similar food." [47 P.S. § 4-406(e)]."

Are patrons allowed to sit at the bar while at a restaurant or event?

For outdoor weddings and similar outdoor private events, attendees may be served alcohol at a bar, but must have an available seat where a meal is being served. For indoor weddings and private events complying with the 25 person limitation, table service is required.

I have a catering license, what does this mean for me?

The order is not directed to particular licensees, rather, facilities are governed by the order. As such, if a facility is capable of hosting multiple indoor events in different locations, each event is limited to 25 attendees. Similarly, each outdoor event is limited to 250 attendees.

Many kitchens in bars/restaurants are only open limited hours, can alcohol be served when the kitchen is closed?

Per the Orders, alcohol only can be served for on-premises consumption when in the same transaction as a meal.

If alcohol is only served with a meal, can a person get a second or third drink?

Yes, there is no limit on the number of drinks that can be served, however, patrons should not linger at a restaurant after they have finished their meal.

Does the gathering limitation include staff?

Yes, the gathering limitation includes staff. For example, an outdoor wedding event should account for venue and food service staff that are interacting with guests of each gathering. If the same staff are interacting with attendees at multiple events in the same venue, they should be counted towards the event limit for each event the staff are serving.

Do events that have been scheduled prior to the issuance of the order need to be cancelled?

The order applies to all relevant activities beginning 07/16/2020 regardless of when those activities were scheduled.

What is the definition of indoor vs. outdoor dining? Would a tent with walls be considered outdoor?

Indoor dining occurs in a fully or largely enclosed (2-walls or more) space. On the other hand, outdoor dining occurs in a completely or largely open air space (open on three sides).

A tent is allowed for outdoor dining or events; however, the commonwealth encourages tents to not be fully enclosed which would limit air circulation and undo the benefits of being outdoors.

How does this Order apply to casinos and casino floor service?

Any restaurant or food service in the casinos must follow the Order, including but not limited to the 50% occupancy rate (25% if the establishment has not self-certified) for all indoor (casino) dining. Second, any events held on casino grounds must follow the gathering or event size limitations (25 people or less for an indoor event, 250 people or less for outdoor event). Third, casinos must follow the Order's requirements on serving alcohol – alcohol can only be served alongside and as part of the same transaction as a meal (see question about the definition of a "meal"). Drink service on the casino floor is prohibited under the Order.

The Order notes an end to "bar service" is required. Does this extend to non-alcoholic service as well as water and other non-alcoholic beverages?

No bar service is permitted as it encourages groups of unrelated individuals to congregate.

How is this Order being enforced?

PA State Police, PA Liquor Control Board, Dept of Agriculture and local law enforcement are all enforcing violations of business restrictions, particularly those relative to restaurants and liquor licenses.

What if a county health department has issued its own Order? Do I have to follow that one or this one?

Yes, county and municipal health departments are allowed to have more restrictive, not less restrictive, public health orders.

- Limited to 50% of stated fire code maximum occupancy (25% if they have not self-certified).
- Dine-in services are allowed in both indoor and outdoor seating areas so long as they strictly adhere to the requirements of the Guidance including:
 - Bar seating and service is not allowed.

Businesses operating at 25% or 50% capacity must:

- Follow the provisions in the Universal Face Covering Order.
- Implement social distancing and appropriate hand hygiene.
- Be mindful of high touch surfaces and implement frequent cleaning.
- Limit discrete indoor events or gatherings to 25 persons. For example, each discrete indoor event or gathering, like birthday parties, within such businesses, is limited to 25 persons, and the total of all such events may not exceed the applicable capacity.

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