

Restaurants

Temporary Outdoor Seating

Phase II-Preparation and Accommodation for Outdoor Restaurant Dining Service ([mass.gov/reopening](https://www.mass.gov/reopening))

Provide by State Inspector Adelle Reynolds

Additionally, State Inspector Jeffery Putnam on June 11, 2020 indicated further guidance will be forthcoming.

[Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 35 \(see section 4\)](#)

This section reviews;

Requirements for outdoor seating. It states that “outdoor table service may be provided under awnings, table umbrellas or other cover from the elements, provided, however, that at least 50 percent of the perimeter of any covered dining space must remain open and unobstructed by any form of siding or barriers at all times”.

Process for expedited zoning approval if required.

Approvals for liquor licenses and/or extensions through the local LLA.

All orders by the Governor will be in effect till November 1, 2020 or the date his order is rescinded.

Several restaurants have already inquired about tent installations for outdoor seating. Code sections to review;

780CMR IBC, Ch. 1 (Ma Amendments) Sec. 108-Temporary Structures and Uses, Sub-sec. 101.4.5-Fire Prevention, Ch. 10-Means of Egress, Ch. 31-Special Construction are all chapters/sections that apply to tents/temporary structures. IFC Ch. 31-Tents & Other Membrane Structures should be reviewed as well.

Basic Requirements;

Size of tent- determines, occupant load; egress, exit signs/lighting, fire extinguishers, travel distance;

Certificate of flame resistance;

Distance to property lines, other structures (20 ft.);

Anchorage of tent; Fire Accessibility;

Number of tables, separation, aisle ways;

Barriers (vehicles)/fencing (for alcohol service) if needed;

521CMR AAB requirements, accessible means of egress;

EZup tents are not for commercial use, residential only, unless they buy commercial use ones with all documents and fire rating and verification that they can be erected for longer periods of time.

Please visit these sites also, not that the guidelines are all enforceable by the Building Official, but it helps if all Town Departments are working together to keep sites in compliance and safe.

[MA Restaurants COVID-19 Safety Standards](http://www.mass.gov/reopening) (www.mass.gov/reopening)

Safety Standards deal with topics such as- distancing, signage, menus, utensils, sanitizing between seating, cleaning and disinfecting...

[MA Restaurants COVID 19 Checklist](#)

Checklist again deals with distancing, spacing tables not exceeding 6 people, hygiene, staffing, disinfecting...

[ABCC June 1, 2020 Advisory Regarding LLA Approval of Outdoor Seating](#) (www.mass.gov/abcc)

[ABCC July 28, 2015 Advisory Regarding Guidelines for Patio and Outdoor Areas](#)

These outlines deal with issue of local LLA being able to approve alterations of existing Liquor Licenses.