



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
County of Riverside

KEITH JONES, DIRECTOR

Dear Restaurant Owner/Operator:

Riverside County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Cameron Kaiser, issued a public health order on March 16, 2020 prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people. To comply with this order all venues regardless of type are limited to a gathering of 10 in one space or space subdivision, employees and patrons combined. This means that occupancy of patio seating may be counted separate from the occupancy inside the establishment. In addition, social distancing of six feet must be maintained. This includes restaurants and bars, and this occupancy limit essentially makes take-out or drive-thru mandatory for many businesses.

To clarify the order for food facilities, if a facility is able to meet the conditions of no more than 10 people inside, and still maintain a minimum 6-foot separation between them, they are not required to close their dining rooms. This is a health officer order, not guidance, and violation is a misdemeanor. It is currently effective until April 30, 2020. To be clear, a city may not adopt regulations less restrictive than the county's order (e.g. allowing more than 10 people). A city may, however, adopt regulations more restrictive (e.g., full closure).

Attached is a copy of the public health order for your reference. Should your business not comply with the order and continue to operate with no restrictions to occupancy, the County of Riverside will immediately seek court action.

Thank you for your understanding and compliance in this urgent public health matter. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Environmental Health at 888-722-4234.

Sincerely,

Riverside County Department of Environmental Health