

12 APRIL 2021 - OUTDOOR EATING & DRINKING - ENGLAND

- Review your COVID-19 risk assessment to ensure that all relevant mitigations are in place and that staff are aware of their responsibilities.
- You must have an NHS QR Code poster accessible to all customers as well as an alternative method for recording customer contact details. Customers details must be collected, via the app or otherwise, before they place an order.
- All customers (16+) must provide their details for Test and Trace. You must take reasonable steps to refuse entry to those who refuse to check in or provide false details. You should satisfy yourselves that individuals who are checking in using the official NHS QR code have done so – you may do this by asking the individual if they have scanned the code.
- Customers are only allowed indoors to: walk to the outdoor area, use the toilet, baby change and breast feeding facilities or make payment at the bar as a last resort. Customers must wear face coverings indoors and not loiter or congregate.
- Staff must wear face coverings in indoor areas, unless they are separated from customers by a screen or similar. Face coverings do not need to be worn outdoors by staff or customers.
- Outdoor seating and tables should be reconfigured to maintain social distancing guidelines (2m, or 1m+ with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable) between groups of customers. Government have confirmed that social distancing between tables remains the focus and that is reflected in the workplace guidance.
- Customers must be seated at a table to order, be served and consume their food and/or drink in venues servicing alcohol. Ideally payment should also be taken at table, however as a last resort (and only if not possible outdoors) payment can be taken indoors.
- It is no longer the case that a substantial meal has to be ordered with alcohol.
- Groups must be a maximum of 6 people or two households (unlimited number).
- Government guidance has been updated to state: ‘Closed premises can continue to provide food and drinks, including alcohol, on a takeaway basis. This means that customers can enter the premises to place and collect their order. Food and drinks can also be provided via drive through, as well as click-and-collect (where goods are pre-ordered by phone, online, via a mobile app or post, and collected without entering the premises) and delivery.’
- Outdoor structures must follow the same rules as smoking shelters – 50% or more of the sides must be open – in order to be classed as “outdoors”.
- You can offer background music and television outside, if it is kept at a reasonable volume and shouting/singing/chanting is prevented. Incidental live music is permitted.
- Customers making takeaway purchases are exempt from both Test and Trace and the requirement to be seated whilst ordering but their purchase must be consumed off-premise (including outside of adjacent areas)