



Restaurants and Bars with Games and Entertainment Devices

11/16/2020

In conjunction with the issuance of Executive Order 20-96, Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Restaurants and Bars was updated with additional restrictions on the play of games and the use of entertainment devices. This document provides clarification for businesses that may opt to operate their bar or restaurant establishment as a recreational venue as well as host events.

Games and entertainment devices may not be played in a bar or restaurant

Businesses and employers providing food and beverages for on-site consumption (such as bars, restaurants, breweries, and wineries) must prepare, implement, and comply with a COVID-19 Business Preparedness Plan that contains all of the elements found in the [Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Restaurants and Bars \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safedining.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safedining.pdf).

1. Recreational or entertainment facilities, activities, attractions, spectacles, and devices (e.g., bar sports, games, darts, billiards, beanbags, arcade games) that require patrons to leave their tables may not be played in a bar or restaurant unless the stricter requirements for “Recreational Entertainment Venues” have been implemented in lieu of the “Bar and Restaurant” requirements.
2. Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, the play of lawful games, like pull tabs, as provided under Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 349.12 is allowed in bars and restaurants under Executive Order 20-74.
 - a. Customers in queuing areas must maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet from other customers, and queuing areas must be marked to provide for physical distancing (for example, by using floor markings, lane lines, and/or marking of adjacent areas where customers may be waiting for service).

Recreational Entertainment Venues

Businesses and employers are identified as “recreational entertainment venues” when patrons do not remain seated, and are permitted by the business to stand up, walk around, and intermingle within any area of the business. Because patrons are not seated, the nature of the activity within the venue presents additional concerns with congregation and congestion as patrons wander and navigate throughout the venue, and gather and/or intermingle with other patrons.

A restaurant or bar that offers facilities, activities, attractions, spectacles, and devices that necessitate or permit individuals to leave their tables may choose to establish their business as a Recreational Entertainment Venue under the [Stay Safe Guidance \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp). A business that permits patrons to use such facilities, activities, attractions, spectacles, and devices must prepare, implement, and comply with a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that includes all of the elements found in the [Preparedness Plan Requirements Guidance – Recreational Entertainment & Meetings \(dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_recreational_entertainment.pdf\)](https://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_recreational_entertainment.pdf).

- a. If a business opts to operate as a Recreational Entertainment Venue, the business must maintain that status for the entirety of a single day. They may not divide or portion the day to operate in part as a “Restaurant/Bar” for any number of given hours within a day and as a “Recreational Entertainment Venue” during other hours within the same day.
- b. For any 24 hour period between the hours of 4 a.m. to 4 a.m., a business must choose whether it will operate as a “Recreational Entertainment Venue” or as a “Restaurant and Bar” and comply with their applicable COVID-19 Preparedness plan and guidance.

Restaurants and Bars vs. Recreational Entertainment Venues

Limitation	Restaurants and Bars	Recreational Entertainment
Capacity	<p>Indoor: May not exceed 50% occupant capacity, and no more than 150 people</p> <p>Indoor + Outdoor: No more than 150 people total</p>	<p>Indoor + Outdoor: May not exceed 25% occupant capacity for the entire venue, and no more than 250 patrons</p>
Hours of operation	<p>No onsite consumption of food or beverages between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.</p> <p>All customers must exit by 10 p.m.</p>	<p>No onsite service or consumption of food or beverages between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.</p> <p>Customers may remain after 10 p.m. as long as onsite service and consumption of food and beverages is prohibited</p>

RESTAURANTS AND BARS WITH GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT DEVICES

Limitation	Restaurants and Bars	Recreational Entertainment
Reservations	<p>Reservations required</p> <p>Onsite reservations allowed</p>	<p>Advanced ticketing/reservations for entry required</p> <p>Impromptu admittance not allowed</p> <p>Household groups must be pre-assigned to reserved and designated areas (e.g., pool tables, dart lanes, games)</p>
Party limits	<p>Table size limited to 10 people</p> <p>No household limitation, but strongly recommend no more than 3 households per party</p>	<p>Groups/Teams limited to household groups only (intermixing of household groups not permitted)</p> <p>Household groups (i.e., “Pods”) limited to 6 people</p>
Bar/counter service and seating	<p>No customer seating at a bar or counter</p> <p>No service from a bar or counter, unless the business is counter service-only</p>	<p>Social distancing of at least 6 feet between workers and patrons must be maintained</p> <p>Businesses must comply with requirements under “Restaurant and Bars” regarding the serving of food/beverages</p>
Face coverings	<p>Required indoors in accordance with Executive Order 20-81</p> <p>May be removed when eating/drinking</p> <p>Face coverings must be worn by workers at all times when indoors, and outdoors whenever social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained</p>	<p>Required indoors in accordance with Executive Order 20-81</p> <p>Must be worn while playing games</p> <p>May be removed when eating/drinking</p> <p>Face coverings must be worn by workers at all times when indoors, and outdoors whenever social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained</p>

RESTAURANTS AND BARS WITH GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT DEVICES

Limitation	Restaurants and Bars	Recreational Entertainment
<p>Hosting events, celebrations, or private parties</p>	<p>Must comply with Gathering Requirements for Celebrations and Significant Life Events, including:</p> <p>Reservations for the event must be made in advance of the date of the event</p> <p>Event must be assigned a designated area that is separated from the rest of the venue</p> <p>Number of persons associated with the event counts towards the overall occupant capacity allowed for the venue</p>	<p>Must comply with Gathering Requirements for Celebrations and Significant Life Events, including:</p> <p>Reservations for the event must be made in advance of the date of the event</p> <p>Event must be assigned a designated area that is separated from the rest of the venue</p> <p>Number of persons associated with the event counts towards the overall occupant capacity allowed for the venue</p>

Refer to the following documents for the full scope of requirements for these establishments and events:

- [Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Restaurants and Bars \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safedining.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safedining.pdf)
- [Preparedness Plan Requirements Guidance – Recreational Entertainment & Meetings \(dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_recreational_entertainment.pdf\)](http://dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/COVID_19_preparedness_plan_requirements_guidelines_recreational_entertainment.pdf)
- [Gathering Requirements for Celebrations and Significant Life Events \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safeevents.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safeevents.pdf)



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