

Winter Dining Guide: Resources for Restaurants + Bars

Indoor dining closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with unpleasant outdoor weather creates additional challenges for bars and restaurants struggling to keep their businesses afloat.

Know the Risks and Take Them Seriously

- Lowest Risk – Drive-through, delivery, take-out, and curbside pick up.
- High Risk – All of the above emphasized as best choice, but also offering limited on-site dining with outdoor seating only, spaced 6 feet apart
- Higher Risk – On-site dining with indoor and outdoor seating, spaced 6 feet apart
- Highest Risk – Dining as normal, indoors and outdoors, without regard for capacity or spacing

Create a Winter Dining Plan

- Extend the Outdoor Dining Season
 - Consider outdoor heaters if allowed and compatible with your space
 - Create additional warmth enclosures using curtains, freestanding barriers, or a form of tent/yurt with multiple wall enclosures
 - Add ambiance and experience using lighting, music, décor, and seasonal menus/offerings
- Minimizing the Risk Factors for Indoor Dining
 - Ensure healthy air quality by maintaining good air flow with upgraded filtration or irradiation or localized ionized purifiers
 - Restructure your space to optimize safety in social distancing
 - Install physical barriers between dining spaces
 - Rethink service procedures to promote safety for your staff while still providing an exceptional dining experience
- Partner with Local Municipalities to Create New Opportunities + Awareness
 - Consider expanding services and broadening business base
 - Maximize revenue with a mix of takeout, delivery, catering, retail, and digital channels
 - Propose solutions to municipal leaders and understand what efforts they are putting in place to be flexible and accommodating
 - Consider getting a “COVID certification” from a local health department or certifying organization to instill trust within customer

Conclusion

- Leveraging a combination of minimal indoor dining risks with outdoor/nontraditional options can help you sustain operations during weather intensive periods.