

## Guidance for Creating or Expanding Outdoor Dining

In accordance with the [Governor's Executive Order 61](#) the Town of Blacksburg is allowing restaurants to expand outdoor dining during the pandemic. Zoning enforcement of these areas is temporarily suspended however every restaurant must get approval from the town to create or expand dining areas. Restaurants must also follow all Virginia ABC and Department of Health guidelines.

The town is amenable to restaurants using space that is owned by the town (i.e. sidewalks and parking spaces) that are adjacent or within close proximity to the restaurant. To discuss this option, any other questions, and to get written approval from the town please contact Matt Hanratty, Assistant to the Town Manager, at (540) 443 – 1611 or [mhanratty@blacksburg.gov](mailto:mhanratty@blacksburg.gov). All that is required in the submission of a diagram of the proposed space demonstrating compliance with VA ABC and Department of Health guidelines (see below).

VA ABC requirements are as follows and can be found in more detail in the attached document:

- The restaurant must have written approval from the Town of Blacksburg for the temporary use of space.
- The restaurant must have written permission from their landlord if they do not currently have control over the proposed space to allow the Virginia Department of Health or any other regulatory agency access to the area for inspections.
- The outdoor dining area must either be contiguous to the restaurant's licensed premises or within 100 feet of the licensed premises.
- A diagram of the proposed space.
- All items need to be submitted to Blacksburg's local Virginia ABC Officer, Tracy Smith, at (540) 520 – 2142 or [tracy.smith@abc.virginia.gov](mailto:tracy.smith@abc.virginia.gov).

All restaurants should refer to the [Safer at Home: Phase One guidelines](#) and [Executive Order 61](#) for guidance. In addition to these documents the Virginia Department of Health recommends the following for restaurants creating or expanding outdoor dining:

- No need for a health permit, only written permission to use the space and for the department of health to have access (see Virginia ABC's guidelines above).
- No condiments on the tables, single use only.
- Tables and chairs need to be cleaned after each use.
- Bathrooms cleaned at least every hour.
- No more than 10 customers in the restaurant which includes using the restroom, pickup, going from indoor to outdoor areas, etc.
- No bar seating.
- No space limits on any new outdoor seating but:
  - Tables must provide 6 feet of separation between seated parties.
  - Seating must also provide 6 feet of separation from pedestrian / sidewalk traffic.
  - Parties/groups can have no more than 10 people.

- You cannot put people together at a table that didn't intend to eat together.
  - I.e. not putting two random groups of four at a 10 top.
- Occupancy may not exceed 50% of the lowest occupancy load on the certificate of occupancy.
- Outdoor space cannot be more than 100 feet from restaurant
- Sanitizer or a way to wash hands for customers.