



**Belfast
City Council**

Our Ref: ST/RW

Being dealt with by: Trudy Stanfield

Your Ref:

Email: envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date: 24/05/2021

Owner/manager

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (as amended)

You will be aware that the NI Executive has agreed that licensed premises can reopen their indoor areas from 24th May 2021.

PSNI and the Council would like to remind you of the requirements that businesses or members' clubs which sell or provide food or drink (whether or not including intoxicating liquor) for consumption on the premises must adhere to under the Health Protection (Coronavirus Regulations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 as amended. Below is a summary of the requirements:

1. The venue must carry out a risk assessment which identifies the maximum number of persons who may be seated in each part of the premises and the volume at which any background or ambient music will be played so as to enable visitors to conduct conversation at normal loudness of speech. The risk assessment must be available at the premises for inspection;
2. The maximum number of persons who may be seated in that part of the premises must be displayed prominently, at each part of the premises;
3. Dancing, live music and the provision of music, whether live or recorded, for dancing, is not permitted;
4. Food or drink must only be ordered and consumed by customers while they are seated at their table. A "table" includes a counter or other structure which serves the purpose of a table and which is not used wholly or partly as a bar for the service of food or drink. Customers must not be seated at an area used wholly or partly as a bar for the service of food or drink;
5. No more than six persons (not including children aged 12 or under) must be seated at a table if those persons are from more than one household. Where those seated at a table are from one household or one bubble there may be a maximum of ten people seated at a table;

Siobhan Toland M.Sc. , F.C.I.E.H
Director of City Services

Belfast City Council, City and Neighbourhood Services Department
The Cecil Ward Building, 4-10 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BP: Tel: 028 9027 0428
Text Telephone Facility for People who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired: 028 9027 0405
Fax: 028 9027 0422
Email: envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk

6. Visitors are only permitted to move within the premises to enter or exit the premises, access a table, make a payment, or access and use toilet, baby changing or breast feeding facilities or a smoking area. Therefore the use of gaming machines, jukeboxes, snooker/pool tables etc. is not permitted;
7. The name and telephone number of each person over the age of 16 visiting the premises must be collected, along with the date of their visit and arrival time. This information should be held for 21 days and be available within 24 hours on request for the purposes of the Test, Trace, Protect contact tracing programme.

Face coverings

It is mandatory for staff in hospitality premises to wear face coverings, unless exempt. Face coverings must also be worn by customers on entering and exiting the premises, and any time they leave their table, for example, to use toilet facilities, unless exempt.

Social distancing

Businesses which sell or provide food or drink for consumption on the premises are required to take reasonable measures to ensure that staff and visitors comply with social distancing measures at all times.

Where it is not reasonably practicable for a social distance of 1 metre to be maintained, you are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that—

- (a) any close face to face contact is limited between persons;
- (b) barriers or screens are installed and maintained; and
- (c) personal protective equipment is used where appropriate and in such a case is made readily available.

Social distancing between parties should be measured while customers are in the average seated position and a distance of 1 metre maintained between customers from different parties.

Officers from the Council and PSNI will be carrying out visits to premises to ensure adherence with the Regulations and relevant guidance.

Notwithstanding the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (as amended), licensees should be clear that The Licensing (NI) Order 1996 remains unchanged. In particular, but not limited to, areas used for the sale and/or consumption of intoxicating liquor must be marked as "licensed area" on the premises map held by the Court.

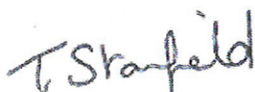
Further information

- The Regulations can be found at the following link – <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-regulations-northern-ireland-2021>
- General guidance for working safely in tourism and hospitality in Northern Ireland can be found at the following link – <https://www.tourismni.com/covid-19/practical-guidance-for-working-safely-during-covid-19/guidance-for-restaurants-pubs-and-bars/> Please note that this guidance is currently being reviewed.

Advice Line

You can contact the Council's free and confidential Advice Line on 028 9027 0565 or covid19businessadvice@belfastcity.gov.uk for practical advice on managing your business safely.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Trudy Stanfield
Senior Environmental Health Officer
(Health and Safety)