



## I. Background

On Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>, the San Antonio City Council extended Mayor Nirenberg's public health emergency declaration for 30 days to end on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>. The declaration mandates that bars and restaurants' dining rooms close but restaurants are still allowed to operate drive-throughs and takeout orders. The San Antonio order is more restrictive than the Texas order that lasts until Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> so some establishments in Bexar County will be open prior to those inside the City of San Antonio. Violations of the order are a Class C misdemeanor, which is punishable by fines up to \$2,000.

## II. Proposal for San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Food Licensing & Permits

### Website

The [Food and Environmental Health Services Division website](#) does not have any FAQs or updates for food establishment managers and operators to receive information or updates on the emergency declaration or recommendations on best practices for operating drive-thrus and takeout orders. The [National Restaurant Association](#) and the [Texas Restaurant Association](#) provide COVID-19 resources and updates on White House Advisories and recommendations from CDC, EPA and ServSafe.

### Recommendation

The PHAC recommends the SAMHD food inspections homepage provide a Restaurant FAQ on COVID-19 and keep it maintained with weekly updates, as needed, related to the declarations for all the municipalities for which they have jurisdiction because of the differences in the timelines for closing. An example of restaurant and bar guidance during COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

The webpage could include:

1. Explanation of which deadline applies to each municipality and specific guidelines about occupancy limits and violations.
2. Information about security and patrolling of properties that are completely closed during the declaration.
3. Link to the executive order for restaurants and bars by Governor Abbot.
4. Link to the emergency declaration for restaurants and bars by Mayor Nirenberg.
5. Link to the SAMHD restaurant posters that were distributed.
6. COVID-19 Hotline for customers or employees.
7. COVID-19 phone number or email for restaurant owners with questions about the orders.
8. FAQs about the executive and emergency declarations (example attached).
9. Guidance for food service and sanitation related to COVID-19.
10. Links to the San Antonio Restaurant Association, Texas Restaurant Association and National Restaurant Association and the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission.



## Example FAQs from Illinois

### **1. How long will the restaurant and bar closure last?**

On-site consumption at restaurants and bars is currently scheduled to be closed starting at 9pm on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> through Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to evaluate this timeline as we move forward and announce any updates as soon as we have them. Delivery, drive-through, carryout and curbside pickup will continue to be allowed at all restaurants able to provide these services.

### **2. Does the ban include movie theaters? What about cafes at grocery stores?**

The Executive Order prohibits gatherings of 50 people or more in places including fitness centers/health clubs, bowling alleys, private clubs, and theatres. However, it does not impact establishments that provide essential goods and services, including grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, gas stations, banks/credit unions, shelters, and other establishments that provide essential services. The administration continues to evaluate other non-essential venues that could lead to the congregation of larger crowds.

### **3. Does the ban include restaurants/concessions at airports?**

Retailers located in airports, hospitals, and dining halls in colleges and universities are exempt from the requirements of the Executive Order 2020-07.

### **4. What about small, family owned restaurants that don't have delivery or take-out capability?**

The administration is working directly with delivery service providers like Uber Eats, Grubhub and Postmates to help smaller restaurants put in place delivery options. U.S. Small Business Administration (USBA) is also offering loans for businesses impacted by coronavirus. For more information on the loans, visit the USBA website [here](#).

### **5. Are catered events allowed?**

Yes, however large gatherings are strongly discouraged and events with 50 or more people are banned. Unless absolutely necessary, the best course of action is to stay at home and avoid large crowds to prevent further spread of coronavirus.

### **6. Are patrons allowed to enter the restaurant to pick-up food and/or order and then leave?**

Patrons are strongly encouraged to utilize drive-throughs and pick-up pre-ordered food curbside if available at the restaurant. In addition, customers may enter the premises to purchase food or beverages for carry-out. Establishments offering food or beverages for carry-out, including food trucks, must ensure that they have an environment where patrons maintain adequate social distancing.



**7. What time is end-of-business on Monday for bars and restaurants?**

Some bars are open till 2am.

**8. Can they stay open till then or do they need to close at midnight?**

All restaurants and bars must close for on-site consumption by 9pm CST on March 16th.

**9. Are coffee shops closed?**

The same rules that apply to bars and restaurants also apply to coffee shops.

**10. Are delivery fees going to be really high?**

Delivery fees are determined by each individual company. The administration will not tolerate price gouging of any kind and all incidents should be immediately reported to the Illinois Attorney General online here.

**11. Is the state working with delivery companies to set pricing?**

No, delivery fees are determined by individual companies, but we are working closely with the companies to ensure their services are as accessible to small businesses as possible.

**12. Will I qualify for unemployment benefits since my restaurant is closed?**

The administration has worked to expand unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are unable to work due to COVID-19. For more information on unemployment insurance, go to the Illinois Department of Employment Security website here.

**13. How can I make sure my food delivery isn't contaminated?**

Restaurants and their delivery partners should continue to follow best practices when it comes to transporting food including placing deliveries in secure, sealed containers. Patrons should double check their delivery is sealed upon arrival and report any opened packaging directly to the restaurant. Patrons should also be following CDC guidelines regarding thorough and regular handwashing, particularly before and after eating.

**14. What safety measures are being implemented at restaurants providing meals via drive-throughs and curbside pick-up? Are there state mandated measures?**

Restaurants operating in Illinois are monitored by the Illinois Department of Public Health to ensure they are following mandated safety measures. Those measures are applicable and enforceable even if restaurants are only doing business via drive-through or curbside.

**15. Can I still get groceries delivered?**

Yes, you may still have groceries delivered. There have been no executive orders impacting grocery delivery.

Source: <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/home/showdocument?id=97321>