



FAQs on Updated COVID19 Restrictions Intended to Address the Increase in Cases & to Help Keep Anne Arundel County Open

Updated Saturday, July 25, 2020

County Executive Steuart Pittman's Executive Order 27 can be found [HERE](#)

Table of Contents:

1. [What does Anne Arundel County's Executive Order Number 27 do?](#)
2. [When does it take effect?](#)
3. [Does this apply to the City of Annapolis?](#)
4. [How long will this indoor dining and the gatherings restriction last?](#)
5. [Do the indoor dining restrictions apply to 24-hour diners, fast food, and similar establishments that do not sell alcohol?](#)
6. [Why is this new guidance mainly for indoor dining and indoor bars?](#)
7. [Do indoor dining areas need to stop serving new customers at 10 p.m. or do these areas need to be vacated by 10 p.m.?](#)
8. [Does the requirement to close indoor dining areas by 10 p.m. also apply when such businesses are being used for private parties/banquets/events?](#)
9. [Can bars be open outdoors?](#)
10. [Can I still dine outside, carry out food or get delivery after 10 p.m.?](#)
11. [Is there a max capacity for outdoor dining?](#)
12. [Are face masks or covers still required outside?](#)
13. [Can I use bathroom facilities inside a restaurant?](#)
14. [Are restaurants still keeping up with cleaning protocols for outside?](#)
15. [Where am I allowed to go inside a mall?](#)

16. [What are considered “social gatherings”?](#)
17. [Do the 50-person outdoor and 25-person indoor social gathering limits apply to private homes?](#)
18. [Do the 50-person outdoor and 25-person indoor social gathering limits apply when serving general public customers at restaurants, bars, and similar establishments?](#)
19. [Does the 25-person indoor social gathering limit apply to banquet hall rentals or rentals of space in community centers, etc.?](#)
20. [Can I still go to stores or to my church?](#)
21. [Does the limit apply to weddings and funerals?](#)
22. [Are farmers markets considered social gatherings according to Executive Order No. 27?](#)
23. [What if my office building has over 50 employees inside spread throughout different floors?](#)
24. [Does this mean we are moving backward as a county? Can we expect to reverse all the way back to stage one/stay at home order?](#)

1. What does Anne Arundel County’s Executive Order Number 27 do? It is an order to impose restrictions on certain indoor use and to place limits on the size of social gatherings. The three aspect of the order are:

- Restaurants, bars, and other similar establishments in Anne Arundel County that sell food and alcoholic beverages, or alcoholic beverages only, for consumption on-premises in indoor dining facilities (“Restaurants”) shall cease all indoor service at 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Food service establishments located in food courts in indoor shopping malls shall be limited to carry-out service only; dining at tables or other spaces in food courts is prohibited.
- Indoor social gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited. Outdoor social gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited.

2. When does it take effect? Friday, July 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

3. Does this apply to the City of Annapolis? While Governor Hogan's executive order gives each political jurisdiction - including the City of Annapolis - the authority to enact their own local COVID restrictions, Mayor Buckley has indicated the City will be following the policies in [County Executive Order No. 27](#).

4. How long will this indoor dining and the gatherings restriction last? The order will last until terminated by a subsequent Executive Order or until the local proclamation of emergency expires or is terminated.

5. Do the indoor dining restrictions apply to 24-hour diners, fast food, and similar establishments that do not sell alcohol? No, they do not. The requirement to close at 10 p.m. does not apply if the establishment does not sell alcohol.

6. Why is this new guidance mainly for indoor dining and indoor bars? [Executive Order No. 27](#) focuses on reducing the spread of COVID-19 in enclosed facilities with many congregates. Therefore, the first step is to focus on individuals dining indoors for food or beverage consumption. Contact tracing has indicated there is high risk for exposure and transmission of the virus at indoor dining and bars.

7. Do indoor dining areas need to stop serving new customers at 10 p.m. or do these areas need to be vacated by 10 p.m.? The dining room must be cleared by 10 p.m. It should be treated as a "closing time" for the dining room. It is recommended that the facility consider treating it like the closing of the indoor portion of the restaurant as normal with a last-call or ending of orders before 10 p.m. so as to allow patrons to finish and leave by closing time.

8. Does the requirement to close indoor dining areas by 10 p.m. also apply when such businesses are being used for private parties/banquets/events? Yes, if the private party/banquet/event is serving food or alcohol then it is viewed the same as a restaurant and should end by 10 p.m.

9. Can bars be open outdoors? Current guidance should be followed for outdoor seating including separation of seated groups and the wearing of face masks. The consumption of alcohol outdoors will follow previous guidance related to outdoor dining.

10. Can I still dine outside, carry out food or get delivery after 10 p.m.? Yes, individuals can still dine outdoors, get carryout or get delivery depending on the food service facilities hours of operation. When outside, masks are required and social distancing must still take place between tables and individuals attending restaurants.

11. Is there a max capacity for outdoor dining? Under Governor Hogan's [E.O. 20-06-10-01](#), indoor and outdoor dining should be at 50% of maximum capacity. Separation of tables and groups are still to be observed at 6 feet.

12. Are face masks or covers still required outside? Yes, face masks or covers must be worn, but can be taken off while eating or drinking. When eating or drinking, face covers should be put on when encountering a server or staff person, who should also be wearing a properly fitted mask or face cover. Please see the full FAQ on face coverings [HERE](#).

13. Can I use bathroom facilities inside a restaurant? Yes. Restaurants are allowed to let individuals indoors to use restrooms and they should be cleaned regularly.

14. Are restaurants still keeping up with cleaning protocols for outside?

Restaurants should maintain cleaning protocols inside and outside their facility. Wiping down tables, using clean utensils and regularly cleaning common high-touch areas such as doorknobs, condiments, and armrests should be practiced.

15. Where am I allowed to go inside a mall? The access inside a mall should be used exclusively as access into interior stores. In an effort to reduce spread, the congregating inside the mall is not allowed. Food court vendors can be open only for carry out.

16. What are considered “social gatherings”? Social gatherings include, but are not limited to, parties, cookouts, concerts or performances, parades, festivals, conventions, fundraisers and other gatherings that are not associated with operating or patronizing a business. Social gatherings do not include gatherings at retail stores, offices, restaurants, casinos, youth sports, gatherings for religious or spiritual purposes on the premises of a religious or spiritual facility, or wedding receptions, which are subject to the restrictions for Foodservice Establishments in the Governor’s [Executive Order 20-06-10-01](#).

17. Do the 50-person outdoor and 25-person indoor social gathering limits apply to private homes? Yes, the effort is to reduce the unintentional spread of COVID-19 in large groups.

18. Do the 50-person outdoor and 25-person indoor social gathering limits apply when serving general public customers at restaurants, bars, and similar establishments? No, as defined above, a “social gathering” does not include gatherings associated with patronizing a business. If the establishment serving food or beverages is in possession of a food service facility and/or a liquor license it is classified as a restaurant and not subject to the social gathering limits provided that it does not exceed 50% of the establishment’s maximum occupancy as defined in the Governor’s

[Executive Order 20-06-10-01](#). This also applies to private parties/banquets/events being hosted at these establishments.

19. Does the 25-person indoor social gathering limit apply to banquet hall rentals or rentals of space in community centers, etc.? It depends on the end use that the space is being rented for and if that use is considered a social gathering as defined above. For example, if the space is being rented to host a party or a fundraiser then yes, the 25-person indoor limit applies. However, if the space is being rented for a religious gathering or a wedding reception then the limit would not apply. Additionally, the organization renting the space must ensure that all applicable guidelines for the end use are followed.

20. Can I still go to stores or to my church? [Executive Order No. 27](#) does not apply to gatherings in retail stores or religious/spiritual purposes.

21. Does the limit apply to weddings and funerals? This order is not meant to apply to organized wedding events or funerals that are conducted at a religious institution or other facility capable of responsibly hosting an event following social distancing protocols. The host facility is responsible for ensuring that proper social distancing protocols and maximum occupancy limits (for indoor venues) are followed under existing guidelines and regulations.

22. Are farmers markets considered social gatherings according to Executive Order No. 27? No, they are not.

23. What if my office building has over 50 employees inside spread throughout different floors? Each business/office should consider the essential need for employees in facilities while maintaining social distancing, face mask usage and proper hand hygiene practices. Gatherings at offices do not fall under this guidance.

24. Does this mean we are moving backward as a county? Can we expect to reverse all the way back to stage one/stay at home order? In Anne Arundel County, we are beginning to see an increase in positive COVID-19 cases. To ensure the safety for residents, this is a step to prevent spreading the virus more. If followed properly, this order will prevent us from moving back even more.