



Division of Animal and Food Industry Services Food Safety Program

On May 26, 2020, Governor Northam issued Executive Order Sixty-Three requiring Virginians to wear face coverings in public indoor settings to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. This statewide order went into effect at 12:00 a.m. on Friday, May 29, 2020. The full text of the order can be found [HERE](#).

In addition, Governor Northam issued Executive Order Sixty-Seven which allows Virginia to enter into Phase 3, effective 12:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2020. During Phase 3, restaurant and beverage establishments may offer indoor and outdoor dining while maintaining social distancing. The full text of the order can be found [HERE](#). These orders directly affect many businesses under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Food Safety Program. Please review the following information carefully.

Executive Order 63 & Executive Order 67 Requirements

Face Coverings for Food Establishments (Essential Retail Businesses, Breweries, Cideries, Distilleries, Wineries, Tasting Rooms, and Farmer's Markets)

- Employees must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when working in customer facing areas.
- Customers must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while inside the establishment, except while eating or drinking.
- Employers are required to provide face coverings to employees.

Seating and Self-Service Under Executive Order 67 – All Food Establishments (Essential Retail Businesses, Breweries, Cideries, Distilleries, Wineries, Tasting Rooms, and Farmer's Markets)

- Both outdoor and indoor seating may be provided for customers on the premises.
- Seating must have a minimum of six feet between parties at tables and in bar areas. If tables are not movable, some tables must be closed so that seated parties are at least six feet apart. Tables that should not be used must be clearly marked that they are out of service.
- Parties, whether seated together or across multiple tables, of more than 250 are not allowed in seating areas.
- Bar seats and congregating areas must be closed to customers, except for through traffic. Non-bar seating in the bar area (tables or counter seats that do not line up to a bar or food service area) may be used for customer seating, as long as a minimum of six feet is provided between parties at tables.
- Customers may be provided with self-service options. Facilities must provide hand sanitizer at food lines and require the use of barriers (e.g., gloves or deli paper) when employees or patrons touch common utensils. Food lines must be monitored by trained staff at all times of operation, and serving utensils must be changed hourly.
- Self-service of beverages is allowed. Frequently touched surfaces of beverage dispensing equipment must be cleaned and sanitized hourly.
- See pages 8 through 9 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).

Additional Mandatory Requirements and Best Practices for Activities Occurring at Food Establishments (Essential Retail Businesses, Breweries, Cideries, Distilleries, Wineries, Tasting Rooms, and Farmer's Markets)

- Guidelines that address social gatherings, including weddings, may be found on pages 5 through 7 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).
- Mandatory requirements for recreational sports activities may be found on pages 23 through 24 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).
- Mandatory requirements and best practices for entertainment venues/events, including concerts, may be found on pages 30 through 32 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).

Retail Food Establishments – Executive Order 67

Best Practices:

- Adhere to the guidance in pages 1 through 4 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).

Breweries, Cideries, Distilleries, Wineries, and Tasting Rooms under Executive Order 67

Mandatory:

- Comply with the mandatory requirements on pages 8 through 9 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).

Best Practices:

- Adhere to the guidance on pages 1 through 4 and pages 10 through 12 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).

Farmers Markets under Executive Order 67

Mandatory:

- Comply with the mandatory requirements on pages 13 through 14 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).

Best Practices:

- Adhere to the guidance on pages 1 through 4 and page 14 of the Guidelines for All Business Sectors linked [HERE](#).

Helpful Links

CDC Use of Cloth Face Coverings Guidance linked [HERE](#).