

Outdoor hospitality: Guidance for pubs, bars and restaurants



RYEDALE
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



From 12 April 2021 outdoor areas at hospitality venues (cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs, social clubs, including in member's clubs) can re-open, including for takeaway alcohol.

To help those businesses planning to reopen we have included some advice below on the new requirements which you will need to be aware of. Please note this information may change following the publication of revised guidance.

Does it have to be table service only?

Yes, if a licensed premises is selling alcohol your customers must order, eat and drink while seated outdoors.

Rule of six and social distancing

The rule of six or two households will apply. This means that groups of six persons from different households, or any number of persons from up to two households, can sit together. Social distancing rules will still apply between the groups of up to six or two households.

There should be two metre distancing, or one metre plus with mitigation, between seated groups and for the movement of people around the site.

Can customers use inside toilets?

Yes, customers will be able to use inside toilets but you will need to risk assess and have procedures in place to make sure these areas are COVID secure. Customers will need to wear a face covering when entering the premises to use the toilet.

Face coverings

Face coverings do not need to be worn in outside areas, customers must however wear a face covering when entering/leaving the premises to visit the toilet for example.

Do I need to provide a substantial meal?

No, there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcohol.

Will there be a curfew?

No, there is no national curfew but any outdoor restrictions on your premises licence will still apply. In addition you should consider the surrounding area and any disturbance which may be caused by customers in the outside area.

Changes to Track and Trace

It is no longer just the lead member of the group that needs to sign in, every adult in the party over 16 must sign in individually.

Under 16s are exempt from needing to sign into track and trace.

You must also take reasonable steps to refuse entry to your premises if a customer refuses to sign in for track and trace.

You should display an official NHS QR code poster at your premises, the QR posters are being updated and if you are registered already with the NHS you will be emailed a new one.

You should also have a manual log book or other way to collect contact details for customers who do not have a smart phone and are not able to use the QR code.

[Here is more information about the NHS QR codes.](#)

Can I have a marquee, gazebo or similar structure?

The current exemption from requiring planning permission for erecting outdoor shelters has been extended until 31 December 2021.

To be considered 'outdoors', shelters, marquees and other structures must not be 'enclosed' or 'substantially enclosed'. They can have a roof but need to have at least 50% of the area of their walls open at all times whilst in use.

If a structure has temporary sides like on a marquee, these must be removed, not just rolled up (if they are not counted as part of the 50%). Any doors or windows (whether they can be opened or not) are also not counted as part of the 50%.

Can I put tables and chairs on the pavement?

Yes by applying for a pavement licence. [Further information is available here.](#)

