

Under phase three of the Protecting Chicago Reopening Framework, food service establishments can open for outdoor dining on June 3 and drinking establishments can open for outdoor service on June 17. This document provides an overview of the options for restaurants, bars and other food or liquor establishments during phase three of the Protecting Chicago Reopening Framework.

What type of outdoor service is allowed?

During phase three, restaurants, bars and other establishments that sell food or liquor for on-site consumption can open for outdoor service. This includes seating areas that are fully outdoors, in addition to:

- Rooftops
- Rooms with retractable roofs
- Indoor spaces where 50% or more of a wall can be removed via the opening of windows, doors, or panels, provided that dining tables are within 8 feet from such openings

What licenses and/or permits do I need to open for outdoor service?

To serve food outdoors in phase three, an establishment must have a Retail Food Establishment license from the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP). Establishments must have a Tavern or Consumption on Premises-Incidental Activity license in order to serve alcohol.

To operate a room with a retractable roof, or an indoor space where 50% or more of a wall can be removed via the opening of windows, doors, or panels, operators will not need any additional permits or licenses if those spaces are currently licensed.

To operate a rooftop or outdoor patio on private property, operators will need to hold the corresponding Outdoor Patio License if they serve alcohol. This is an existing, permanent license type. Note- this license is not required if the operator does not serve alcohol. However, the location must be included within the operator's Retail Food Establishment license.

To operate on the sidewalk directly adjacent or in close proximity to the licensed establishment, operators will need to hold a Sidewalk Café Permit. This is an existing permit. Note- establishments must have a Retail Food License in order to obtain a Sidewalk Café Permit.

To operate in the street or on other private property (i.e., parking lots) that is not currently licensed, operators will need to obtain an Expanded Outdoor Dining Permit. This is a new permit created specifically for temporary phase three outdoor dining and drinking

How do I obtain a Retail Food Establishment, Tavern, Consumption on Premises-Incidental Activity License, or Outdoor Patio License?

These licenses are issued by BACP. While offices are closed to the public, BACP continues to process new and renewal license applications. Interested applicants should visit www.chicagobusinessdirect.org or contact customer service at revenuecs@cityofchicago.org for more information.

How do I obtain a Sidewalk Café Permit?

Sidewalk Café Permits are issued by BACP. [Click here](#) for more information on obtaining a sidewalk café permit and to access the application.

How do I obtain an Expanded Outdoor Dining Permit?

Applications and more information can be [found here](#). Applications must be submitted by Chambers of Commerce, SSAs, Business Associations or by 3 or more restaurants applying together if street closure is required. Individual food or liquor establishments can apply individually to operate on private property (i.e. parking lots). Questions about this permit can be submitted to chidining@cityofchicago.org.

My business license has expired during the COVID-19 pandemic. Can I still open?

The City of Chicago has extended the expiration date for licenses that expire during the COVID-19 pandemic. All BACP-issued licenses that expire between March 15 and June 30, 2020 will be considered active until July 30, 2020. However, BACP continues to process new and renewal license applications. Interested applicants should visit www.chicagobusinessdirect.org or contact customer service at revenuecs@cityofchicago.org for more information.

What guidance must food and liquor establishments follow during Phase Three?

In addition to opening only for eligible outdoor service, all restaurants, bars and other establishments are expected to adhere to the following guidance:

- Tables must be spaced 6 feet apart
- Limit dining to no more than 6 people per table
- All patrons must be seated
- Limit gatherings to no more than 10 individuals
- Ensure protective gear is worn by employees and guests (face coverings can be removed while customers are seated and eating or drinking)

Furthermore, establishments that offer drinking without a Retail Food Establishment license are required to limit seating to a maximum of two hours for guests.

The full guidance for food service and bars can be [found here](#).

How late can operators serve alcohol?

Under the amended and reissued [Public Health Order 2020-05](#), alcohol sales at bars and restaurants for on-site consumption must end at 11:00 p.m. each night. The sale of alcohol for carryout or delivery must cease at 9:00 p.m. each night.