



**New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

PO Box 25101 ▪ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-5101
Phone (505) 476-4875 ▪ Fax (505) 476-4595 ▪ www.rld.state.nm.us/abc

October 19, 2020

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Marguerite Salazar
Superintendent

Andrew Vallejos
Director

Dear New Mexico Liquor Licensees,

As you are acutely aware, New Mexico has seen a terrible resurgence in COVID-19 cases. A resurgence that is threatening New Mexico's ICU capacity, front line health workers, and first responders. Heading into this holiday season we must pull together to drive the case load down by fully utilizing common sense strategies such as masking and social distancing, especially in indoor settings.

As per the latest Public Health Order from the New Mexico Department of Health and the updated Covid Safe Practices, food and drink establishments (which include restaurant licensees, breweries, wineries, distilleries, and other food and drink establishments that don't generate 50% of their annual revenue from the service of alcohol) continue to remain open at 25% capacity of indoor dining service and at 75% capacity for outdoor dining space. In both instances tables must also be six feet apart with no more than six patrons seated at a single table. No bar or counter service is allowed.

Beginning October 16, 2020:

1. all food and drink establishments must close at 10 p.m.;
2. the limit on mass gatherings has dropped from no more than 10 people to no more than five people in a mass gathering;
3. private events may not exceed the five person mass gathering limit;
4. all patrons at food and drink establishments must be seated at all times except when walking to and from their table. A mask must be worn when walking into or out of the establishment, or to the restroom. Activities that require standing and congregating are prohibited, including gaming areas, sports and recreational activities, dance floors, bar games, karaoke, and other such activities;
5. live performances may not be ticketed events. Performers must wear masks at all times and maintain social distancing from other performers and patrons. Patrons must remain seated. Live performances does not include karaoke, which is prohibited.

Again, we know that the holiday season is normally the time for gathering with friends and family at their favorite establishments. This season it will have to change. We will need to be adaptable and find different business models and strategies this winter. If we can't bring the case load numbers down, we will be facing closures or further capacity restrictions. Please, be safe for your business, your employees, your family and your loved ones.

All the best,

Andrew Vallejos
Director, ABC