

Reopen Milford Advisory Group



MILFORD
CONNECTICUT



REOPEN MILFORD

RESTAURANT GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR DINING
DURING COVID-19

MAY 2020

REOPEN MILFORD ADVISORY GROUP

The City of Milford is intent on facilitating the reopening of local establishments in the most safe and responsible manner. To that end, the City has created the Reopen Milford Advisory Group, which has been working with our Department of Permitting and Land Use, Health Department and Fire Marshal to develop recommendations and guidelines in anticipation of the re-opening of certain businesses following two months of statewide closures due to the new coronavirus outbreak. With Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7MM allowing for expedited approval and permitting for expanded outdoor dining, the following shall serve as a roadmap for restaurants to open, expand or create Outdoor Dining Areas during the pandemic period.

TEMPORARY PERMIT

Prior to any restaurant opening a new or expanded Outdoor Dining Area, it must obtain a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit, signed off by the Milford Health Department, Fire Marshal, Building and Zoning Officials. A copy of the Temporary Outdoor Permit Application is enclosed with this guidance and a link to the same is also provided. For those restaurants that currently hold a permit for outdoor dining and will not be expanding or modifying their Outdoor Dining Area, only sign-off by the Milford Health Department will be necessary. Temporary Outdoor Dining Area permits will be valid for the duration of Executive Order 7MM or unless otherwise rescinded by the aforementioned authorities. All fees in connection with the Temporary Outdoor Dining Area Permit have been waived.

PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applications for Temporary Outdoor Dining Permits require a Site Plan Sketch approximately to scale, indicating the proposed layout of the Temporary Dining Area, including number and placement of tables, chairs and any proposed railings, stanchions or other suitable barriers. The Site Plan Sketch should also include the location / coverage of any proposed tent area as well as an illustration of the pathway waitstaff will use to and from the kitchen. The drawing should include all driveways, parking areas, grass/landscaped areas, adjacent streets, curb cuts and adjacent buildings. In addition, all building entrances and exits (including those in any proposed Outdoor Dining Area) should be shown. A copy of your current site plan may be on file with the Milford Zoning Office. If you would like to use this as a basis for your own submission, please e-mail planning@milfordct.gov to request a copy of your site plan.

No food or beverage service shall be permitted outside the approved Outdoor Dining Area. Handicap access to and from the seating area, restrooms and parking areas must also be shown.

A guide for generating a map of your property using the City's GIS is available at:

https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/sites/milfordct/files/pages/obtaining_a_gis_map_printout_of_your_property.pdf

GENERAL CONDITIONS

In addition to all other REOPEN Connecticut Guidelines, the following shall be adhered to in order to receive and maintain a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit.

The proposed Outdoor Dining Area shall not obstruct Fire Department access to any building or fire protection feature required for fire suppression activities. Any proposed Outdoor Dining Area within a driveway or parking area must be enclosed by suitable barriers. To the extent shared parking is impacted by the Outdoor Dining Area, written authorization and consent from the property owner must be furnished to the City.

The hours of operation are restricted to no later than 9:00 p.m. Sunday – Thursday and no later than 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. No live entertainment shall be permitted, unless otherwise allowed in your current outdoor dining permit. No outdoor food or beverage preparation is permitted. Customers may only be served while seated at a table. Face masks or coverings must be worn at all times by servers and by customers, except when consuming food and beverages.

Seating capacity is limited to no more than fifty percent (50%) of your current total dining capacity. Tables must be placed in a manner to allow for a minimum of six (6) feet between the backs of chairs at each table when occupied. No parties greater than five (5) may be allowed at one table. No pushing tables together. Social distancing of at least six (6) feet must be maintained at all times – including while waiting for a table or waiting for the restroom. Restaurants are encouraged to seat with reservations only and to institute a mobile device notification to customers when their table is ready.

Any tent, awning or covering over the Outdoor dining Area must be shown in the proposed Site Plan Sketch and any fabric covering must meet compliance with NFPA 701 flammability standards (documentation to be provided along with the application). No siding shall be permissible, in order to maintain the openness of the Outdoor Dining Area and allow for circulation of fresh air. The Fire Marshal's Office will make an inspection to be sure that capacity, location and size of any tents are to code, with at least two (2) means of egress with suitably marked exit signs. There shall be no smoking, open flames, flammable liquids or gases of any kind in any Outdoor Dining Area. "No Smoking" signs shall be posted, and fire extinguishers are required. The City Building Official or his designee will also inspect all tents to be sure they are in compliance with the State Building Code. Electricity may be permitted with Building Department inspection, but no outdoor heaters may be used under any tent or covering. Proper lighting is required, and emergency lighting may be mandated.

IN ADDITION TO THE AFOREMENTIONED GUIDELINES, DIRECTIVES SPECIFIC TO HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 ARE ALSO IN PLACE. PLEASE REFER TO FOOD ESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR DINING PREPARED BY THE MILFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/sites/milfordct/files/uploads/mhd_outdoor_dining_guidelines_check_list_return_to_service_nonmed_face_covering_05112020.pdf

HELPFUL RESOURCES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT REOPEN GUIDELINES

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery/CTReopens_Restaurants_C5_V1.pdf?la=en

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Services/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery>

MILFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR DINING:

https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/sites/milfordct/files/uploads/mhd_outdoor_dining_guidelines_check_list_return_to_service_nonmed_face_covering_05112020.pdf

FDA BEST PRACTICES FOR FOOD STORES AND RESTAURANTS LINK

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/best-practices-retail-food-stores-restaurants-and-food-pick-updelivery-services-during-covid-19>

CDC LINK (REOPENING PUBLIC SPACES)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

MILFORD DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

<https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/economic-and-community-development>

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/PLIKVaQ/economicimpactupdates>

APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING AREA PERMIT

<https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/economic-and-community-development/files/application-for-temporary-outdoor-dining-area-permit>