



YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT

Prevention Is Our Business

Transitioning to Modified Phase 1 Food Establishments - Toolkit

Purpose: To provide education and guidance on how food establishments can open and expand operations safely and within the scope of regulations for Modified Phase 1 of Washington State's Safe Start re-opening process.

The Yakima Health District is committed to the health and safety of our community members, as well as wanting our local businesses to be able to operate. To ensure that both is happening we are reaching out to provide guidance specific to your business to help answer questions you may have and to give you the information needed to operate your business while also protecting community members from the spread of COVID-19 in our county.

With this letter you will find the guidance document for Modified Phase 1 operations of food establishments. This outlines what operations are allowed in your business during Modified Phase 1 as well as addressing occupancy limitations, sanitation and customer traffic. It is imperative that all our businesses operate within the scope of Modified Phase 1 regulations so the spread of COVID-19 continues to decline, thus allowing us to eventually transition into Phase 2 and beyond.

We also want to be available to you to answer any additional questions you might have. However, there are a lot of businesses in Yakima County and we believe that a timely response is necessary during these unprecedented times. We are happy to let you know that we have partnered with many local entities to help distribute this information and answer questions you might have. A list of contacts is also included with this toolkit.

PLEASE NOTE: Outdoor seating area occupancy is still based on local fire code/city ordinances. Please consult with your local city to discuss occupancy and/or allowance of outdoor seating areas at your place of business.

Modified Phase 1 Restaurant/Tavern Reopening COVID-19 Requirements

Modified Phase 1: The restaurant/tavern must adopt a written procedure for dine-in service that is at least as strict as the Modified Phase 1 procedure below and complies with all safety and health requirements.

Procedure for dine-in service:

Restaurant/tavern must ensure strict adherence to all measures established by the Governor's guidance, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention: General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#), and the [Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations](#) (DOH). All businesses are strongly encouraged to require their customers to use cloth face coverings when interacting with their staff.

1. Hand sanitizer should be available at entry for all staff and patrons (assuming supply availability).
2. No bar seating or indoor dining is permitted during Modified Phase 1. Outdoor seated dining is permitted as long as social distancing requirements are maintained. (Please, consult with your city department for more information on outdoor seating).
3. If the establishment does not offer table service, they must have protocols in place to ensure adequate social distancing at food and drink pick-up stations, and seating within their dining area.
4. All parties and tables must be 5 guests or less and members of the same household.
5. Tables must be placed far enough apart when measured from occupied chair to occupied chair, to ensure dine-in guests seated at a table are a minimum of 6 feet away from guests at adjacent table, or there must be a physical barrier or wall separating booths or tables.
6. Customers must wear a cloth face covering anytime they are not seated at the table (while being seated or leaving, or while going to the restroom).
7. Single use menus are required for in-person dining.

9. Any condiments typically left on the table (ketchup, soy sauce, etc.) must be single-use or sanitized after each use.
10. Restaurants must have implemented a plan to ensure proper physical distancing in lobby/waiting areas/payment counters.
11. Minimize the number of staff serving any given table. It is strongly recommended that one staff person take a table's order, bring all of their beverages/food/utensils, take their payment, etc.

Employee Safety and Health

The restaurant/tavern operating during Modified Phase 1 has a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law, and comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices, as outlined in Governor Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Proclamation 20-25, and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/workplace>. All businesses are required to post signage at the entrance to their business to strongly encourage their customers to use cloth face coverings when inside the business.

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect workers, including:

- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the employer's COVID-19 policies.
- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and customers) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or customers in narrow or enclosed areas, stagger breaks, and work shift starts.
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate or required to employees for the activity being performed. **Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance.** Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional details. A cloth facial covering is described in the Department of Health guidance, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/ClothFacemasks.pdf>.
- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent transmission on tools or other items that are shared.
- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.

- Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at start of shift. Make sure sick employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the [cleaning guidelines set by the CDC](#) to deep clean and sanitize.

A site-specific COVID-19 Supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each job site to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.

A worker may refuse to perform unsafe work, including hazards created by COVID-19. And, it is unlawful for their employer to take adverse action against a worker who has engaged in safety-protected activities under the law if their work refusal meets certain requirements.

Employees who choose to remove themselves from a worksite because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits. Employers must provide high-risk individuals covered by Proclamation 20-46 with their choice of access to available employer-granted accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work arrangement is not feasible. Other employees may have access to expanded family and medical leave included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, access to use unemployment benefits, or access to other paid time off depending on the circumstances. Additional information is available at <https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/paid-sick-leave-and-coronavirus-covid-19-common-questions>.

No restaurant may operate until they can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. No reopening inspections are required prior to a restaurant reopening provided they meet and maintain all requirements in this document. All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).
- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Safety Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.
- General questions about how to comply with agreement practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://bit.ly/covid-compliance>.

Business Outreach Initiative

Resources List

Purpose: This list is to provide access to education and guidance on how to operate a business safely and effectively within the scope of regulations set by the current phase Yakima County is in. Furthermore, gives access to resources to help businesses best prepare for expansion of operations when moving to the next phase.

Local Resources:

Yakima Health District
Phone: 509-575-4040

Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
509-248-2021 ext. 102
verlynn@yakima.org

Yakima Downtown Association
509-571-1328
director@downtownyakima.com

Selah Downtown Association
Phone: 509-490-1527
Email: selahdowntownassociation@gmail.com

Online Resources:

Governor's Office Website (Specific guidance for business type for each phase)
<https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources/covid-19-reopening-guidance-businesses-and-workers>

Washington State Department of Health
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/ResourcesandRecommendations>

Washington Department of Labor & Industries
<https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-resources>