



## FALL AND WINTER COVID-19 OUTDOOR SEATING GUIDANCE FOR RESTAURANTS AND BARS

*This document provides guidance to restaurants and bars to continue operating outdoors safely and responsibly. All outdoor dining must operate in compliance with the State of Illinois guidelines for restaurants and bars. Any establishment with seating set up on public property must have an approved [Request for Use of Public Property](#) on file with the City.*

**Temporary Outdoor Structures** are allowed on private or public property under the following conditions:

- Tents or other structures cannot extend over or block sidewalks.
- Tents or other structures that hold multiple parties must have at least two sides of the tent open to allow airflow when people are present. If more than two sides of a tent or structure are enclosed while people are present, the structure is considered indoor space for purposes of the guidelines.
- Domes or enclosed structures may be used for individual parties only and must have ventilation to circulate air.
- All tents/structures greater than 700 sf (individually or combined) **require** a [building permit](#).
- All tents/structures that are fully enclosed or are equipped with more than two sides greater than 400 sf **require** a [building permit](#).
- Structures must be weighted, anchored or secured to the ground per manufacturer's guidelines, but cannot be anchored with any method requiring penetration (staking, drilling, etc.) into the public parkway, sidewalk or street.
- All structure materials should have a fire-resistant certification or flame certification showing material is fire-rated or noncombustible.

**Heating Devices** must meet the following operational regulations:

- Heating equipment must be shown on the site plans.
- Electrically powered heating devices are permitted if installed by an electrician.
- Natural gas heaters or any devices fueled with propane are only allowed in open, uncovered areas.
- Heating devices must meet all requirements set forth in the manufacturer's installation and operating instructions.
- Heating equipment should be unplugged or disconnected for overnight storage.
- Employees should be trained in proper installation of fuel tanks and in detecting leaks.

**Additional Safety** considerations to ensure responsible operations:

- Outdoor spaces with heating devices must keep devices away from combustible materials, such as tents, table clothes, etc., at all times.
- Enclosed areas with heating devices must have clearly marked entrances and exits.
- Businesses must have sufficient fire extinguishers to cover indoor and outdoor spaces.
- Restaurants need inclement weather plans in writing and staff training to prevent any injuries in storms, snow or other unsafe situations.
- If plastic domes or other enclosed spaces are used (including tents with sides), establishment must post placards advising about increased risk of transmission within an enclosed space.
- All temporary electrical installations must be code compliant.

### **Inclement Weather and Snow Removal**

- Use of tents and other temporary structures may be unsafe and prohibited during severe weather events (wind, snow, etc.).
- All structures and obstructions must be removed from public parking lots, parkways and sidewalks upon a 2" snowfall. Structures may not be placed back in public parking lots, parkways and sidewalks until 24 hours after the snowfall or until the area is clear of snow and ice whichever is later.