

## State announces soft reopening for outdoor or patio services at dine-in restaurants

Written by Staff Reports  
Friday, 05 June 2020 06:20

---



### McKinley, Cibola and San Juan county's eateries still restricted

SANTA FE — Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced the state's emergency public health order will be amended to permit limited outdoor dine-in services for most of the state beginning May 27.

Dine-in services inside restaurants and bars remain temporarily prohibited. New Mexico is on target for a June 1 reopening of those services under a limited capacity per fire code occupancy restrictions – however, New Mexico health officials continue to monitor the rate of transmission in the state's southwestern public health region, which, if unchecked, could preclude further re-openings in that region. The amended public health order does not apply to the northwestern public health region.

Under the amended public health order, restaurants may offer dine-in service in outdoor seating areas at up to 50 percent of their outdoor area fire code occupancy. The following stipulations apply:

No dine-in service may be provided in indoor seating areas.

## State announces soft reopening for outdoor or patio services at dine-in restaurants

Written by Staff Reports  
Friday, 05 June 2020 06:20

---

Outdoor dine-in service may only be provided to patrons who are seated.

Tables must be placed with at least six feet of distance between one another.

No more than six patrons may be seated at any single table.

No bar or counter seating is permitted.

Bars – defined as food and beverage service establishments that derived more than 50 percent of their revenue in the prior calendar year from the sale of alcoholic beverages – are not included in this provision and may not operate outdoor or patio services at present. Bars may continue to operate for take-out and delivery if permitted under their applicable licenses.

“Our priority throughout this public health crisis has been the safety and health and well-being of New Mexicans, and this modification of the emergency public health order aligns with that mandate, while providing an opportunity for restaurants to begin preparing for a wider reopening next week,” Lujan Grisham said. “We continue to see sustained, consistent progress in our fight against this virus, which is a credit to the New Mexicans who have amended their behavior to keep themselves, their families and their communities safe. I greatly look forward to being able to continue to ease the restrictions imposed on us by this heinous virus – provided that we continue on the right track and New Mexicans take every necessary precaution, whether in an individual capacity or as a business-owner or employee.”

“The New Mexico Restaurant Association is happy with the Governor’s decision to allow a soft opening, of outdoor dining, for restaurants on May 27”, the association’s chief executive Carol Wight said.

“We believe this will provide restaurants the opportunity to ease back into the swing of things while taking the time to properly train staff and implement COVID-19 safe procedures effectively, before fully opening to the public on June 1.

## State announces soft reopening for outdoor or patio services at dine-in restaurants

Written by Staff Reports  
Friday, 05 June 2020 06:20

---

The emergency public health order mandates compliance with COVID-Safe Practices for Restaurants, which have been updated with an adjustment related to contact tracing. The requirement is as follows:

“To support contract tracing, offer all customers who visit the establishment with the opportunity to record their name and phone number or email address, along with the date and time of their visit, and retain such records for no less than four weeks from the date of collection.”

The amended public health order – which otherwise remains the same, meaning other close-contact facilities and outdoor recreation facilities must remain closed – will not apply to the northwestern public health region, encompassing the counties of Cibola, McKinley and San Juan. That public health region remains under the May 5, 2020, public health order, but is on track to move ahead into broader reopenings beginning June 1.