



Thursday, May 20, 2021

## Reopening Modifications Effective Tomorrow at 5:00 am

Effective at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, May 21, 2021, many substantive restrictions and requirements imposed by previous Mayor's Orders and ABC Board rulemakings to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will be lifted. Additionally, select activities such as [pub crawls](#) and [extended holiday hours](#), that were temporarily suspended due to the public health emergency may resume.

Full modifications are detailed in [Mayor's Order 2020-069](#), related [ABC Board emergency rulemakings](#), and on [ABRA's website](#).

Additionally, ABRA will host a virtual public information session focused on the loosening restrictions on Friday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m. [Advance registration is required](#).

Key modifications taking effect at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, May 21 include the following:

- Alcohol licensed restaurants, taverns, hotels, private clubs, and common carriers; manufacturers holding an on-site sales and consumption permit; and festival and temporary license holders may operate at up to 100 percent capacity indoors and outdoors. Nightclubs and multipurpose facilities are permitted to operate at 50 percent capacity—and increase capacity up to 100 percent starting at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021.
- Patrons may stand to order or consume food or beverages, socialize, and to participate in recreational activities such as dancing, darts, pools, axe throwing, bowling, and games of skill.
- Patrons may sit and be served at bars being utilized by bartenders and other wait staff.
- Buffets, self-service stations, and “BYOB” may be offered.
- Live entertainment is permitted without physical distancing or face covering or mask requirements. Live entertainment is allowed between 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. daily on registered streateries but may not be heard inside homes located in residential zones. [Settlement Agreements](#) apply and an

[Entertainment Endorsement](#) is required.

- Establishments may require patrons wear masks when entering the establishment unless the patron is under the age of two (2) years old or has a medical or mental health condition or a disability that prevents the patron from wearing a mask or face covering.
- Patrons may order alcohol for on-premises consumption without being required to purchase a prepared food item.
- [Alcohol carry-out and delivery hours](#) are restored to the originally permitted 6:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m. daily—an increase of one (1) hour.
- On-premises alcohol hours for sale, service, and consumption revert to the hours permitted on the establishment's alcohol license.

Provisions that will remain in place include:

- Establishments must implement a reservation system for contact tracing purposes. Contact information from at least one person per party must be collected and maintained for at least 30-days.
- License holders may utilize up to two (2) additional locations for carry-out and delivery. [Advance registration required.](#)
- Alcohol purchased for carry-out and delivery must be accompanied by at least one (1) prepared food item. This is a permanent statutory requirement.

Additionally, ABRA will now:

- Accept [pub crawl permit applications](#). Applications must be received at least 60-days prior to the proposed event. [Details and applications are available online.](#)
- Allow establishments registered in the [Extended Holidays Hours Program](#) to sell and serve alcohol up to 4:00 a.m. and operate for 24-hours a day on select dates including Memorial Day Weekend (Friday, May 28-Monday, May 31). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis but must be received at least 30-days before the first holiday a licensee wants to extend hours. The first upcoming holiday new applicants will be eligible to extend hours is Independence Day Weekend (Friday, July 2-Sunday, July 4). [Details and eligible holidays are detailed online.](#)

Questions about modifications may be directed to ABRA's Licensing Division at [abc@dc.gov](mailto:abc@dc.gov). Inquiries are responded to Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Following CDC guidance, the District has updated its mask mandate. Fully vaccinated people only need to wear masks or social distance in places where it is required. **Everyone is still required to wear a mask in the following places:**

- On the Metro, on buses, and in taxis and ride shares as required on public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States (on an airplane, train, bus, taxi, ride-share vehicle, or at a transportation hub such as an airport or train station).
- Schools and childcare facilities.

- Healthcare settings.
- When required to per workplace or establishment policies.
- Homeless shelters.
- Correctional facilities.

Individual businesses still have the right to set their own mask mandates for their properties. For further information regarding mask guidance click [here](#).

Regards,  
Lisa