

31/03/2020 COVID-19 Update - Premises Licences and Club Certificates

Due to COVID- 19, The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 has ordered a number of businesses to close with restrictions including;

- 1- Restaurants (including hotels and members clubs)
- 2- Cafes (not including hospital, schools, care home and services providing food or drink to the homeless)
- 3- Bars (including hotels and members clubs)
- 4- Public Houses

During the emergency period these premises must close any areas in which food or drink are sold for consumption on those premises and cease selling food or drink for consumption on its premises. However, if off sales are available at the premises then the premises can operate but they must still cease selling food or drink for consumption on its premises including any area adjacent to the premises of the business where seating is made available for customers. It is advised by the licensing department to check your premises licence as to whether you have off sales permitted on your licence before offering alcohol for takeaway or delivery services.

Off licenses and licensed shops selling alcohol (including breweries) are listed in the regulations to remain open. Some business that may have a premises licence and are to close without restrictions include nightclubs, cinemas, theatres, concert halls, barbers and hair salons.

The government has produced guidance in line with the regulations. If you are to provide a takeaway and/or delivery service, it is encouraged to take orders online or by telephone with no seating areas indoors or outdoors for customers to consume any food and/or drink. Customers should not eat or drink whilst waiting in line and a 2-metre distance should be maintained where possible. Ordering in advance is strongly encouraged to avoid waiting inside, as per Public Health England guidelines. Planning regulation has been changed to enable restaurants, cafes and pubs which do not currently offer delivery and hot food takeaway to do so. Those premises offering takeaway or delivery services must not include alcoholic beverages in this list if their licence does not permit off sales.

If alcohol is permitted and a business provides a delivery services, they must ensure that their age verification policy is adopted. Individuals who appear to the responsible person (delivery driver) to be under 18 years of age should produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and holographic mark or ultraviolet feature.

Please find a link below to the full government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance>