



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Restaurants Offering Outdoor Seating

The City of Walterboro wants to continue to assist our local restaurants through these difficult times that the COVID-19 pandemic has delivered to our City, State, and Nation.

As many of you know, the Governor has partially lifted on-premises dining restrictions, allowing outdoor dining with some spacing and size regulations.

- For existing approved outdoor seating areas:
 - o Tables are to be spaced a minimum of 8 feet from each other (measured from all edges of the table)
 - o Limit tables groups to eight people
 - o Eliminate gatherings in the building when entering or exiting outdoor seating areas.
 - o Maintain strict social/physical distancing guidelines
 - o Tables, chairs, and seats should be sanitized after every customer
- If open areas and/or temporary tents are utilized by existing, permitted restaurants, all sides of the tent must be open, and the following conditions are required:
 - o Tables are to be spaced a minimum of 8 feet from each other (measured from all edges of the table)
 - o Table groups are to be limited to eight people
 - o State approved fire extinguisher within 75 feet.
 - o Minimum of 7-foot-6-inch head room (ceiling height)
 - o Maintain strict social/physical distancing guidelines
 - o Tables, chairs, and seats should be sanitized after every customer

If a restaurant has previously not had outdoor dining and would like to set up a temporary solution, we will allow the utilization of grounds and parking spaces without an official permitting process as long as the above guidelines are followed. We encourage local restaurants to take advantage of this allowance while remaining vigilant about safety.

The City is launching a trial program for Downtown (East Washington Street) restaurants through Saturday May 16th. During this period, these restaurants are permitted to utilize the fronting sidewalk and parking spaces adjacent to their establishment for sit-down dining, provided that they leave room for pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk. Please be reminded that South Carolina laws regulating the off-premises sale of alcoholic beverages still applies. Please note that properly spaced, **seated** dining is permitted, but standing, congregating, loitering, and/or gathering into groups is prohibited.

If you would like assistance in complying, please contact Hank Amundson at 843-782-1004.

And please continue to tag City of Walterboro Government on your Facebook or Twitter posts so we can help spread the word for your business.