

**ALL DINING RESTRICTIONS AND STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE LIFTED**  
*Effective Saturday, May 15, 2021 per Governor Hogan's [Executive Order](#).*

**[See the Maryland Department of Health Directive here.](#)** (updated 5/12/21)

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## **Executive Orders and Government Guidance Documents**

- [Employee Retention Tax Credits \(ERTC\) Guidance](#) (March 2021)
  - IRS guidance for eligible businesses accessing up to \$5,000 per employee in 2020 as long as it does not directly intersect with PPP payroll funds
  - Notice 2021-20 makes major changes for those restaurants who accessed PPP in 2020, and permits many restaurants to access a credit is equal to 50 percent of qualified wages paid, including qualified health plan expenses, for up to \$10,000 per employee in 2020
- [COVID Safe Operating Guidance](#) - created by the National Restaurant Association (updated May 2021)
- [COVID Restaurant Relief Grants by County](#)
- Governor Larry Hogan Executive Orders - <https://governor.maryland.gov/covid-19-pandemic-orders-and-guidance/>
- Maryland Back to Business Website - <https://open.maryland.gov/backtobusiness/>

## **Resources for Reopening & Resuming Operations**

### **COVID Vaccinations & Restaurant Workers**

The National Restaurant Association has compiled resources regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and restaurant workers. As a best practice, restaurants should encourage all employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. However, some restaurants are considering going further by mandating it for certain employees. The

NRA has created a guide to some legal questions raised by those wanting to go the extra step by mandating the COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of employment.

- [\*\*COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccine Policies \(January 2021\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*WEBINAR: Taking a Shot at COVID-19 -- What Restaurants Need to Know About Vaccinating their Workforce\*\*](#)
- [\*\*WEBINAR: Consumer Class and Mass Action Risks Facing Restaurants in 2021\*\*](#)

## **Second Draw of PPP Loans**

The latest COVID-19 pandemic relief bill, approved in late December, created a second draw of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. Eligible restaurants and small businesses can access \$284.5 billion in new PPP loans, which can be fully forgiven if proceeds are used for allowable expenses during a selected 8-week or 24-week period that begins after the proceeds are received.

- [\*\*PPP "User Guide" for Second Round\*\*](#)
- [\*\*List of Banks Accepting PPP Applications\*\*](#)
- [\*\*NEW Application for second draw PPP Form 2483-SD – Second Draw Borrower Application\*\*](#) (Released 1/8/21)
- [\*\*Application for first draw PPP Form 2483\*\*](#)

### **Guidance & Resources**

- [\*\*Policy Update for Restaurants – 2nd Draw PPP\*\*](#) (Released 1/8/21)
- [\*\*Top-Line Overview of First Draw PPP Loans\*\*](#) (Released 1/8/21)
- [\*\*Top-Line Overview of Second Draw PPP Loans\*\*](#) (Released 1/8/21)
- [\*\*Interim Final Rule #1 – PPP as Amended by Economic Aid Act\*\*](#) (Released 1/6/21)
- [\*\*Interim Final Rule #2 – PPP Second Draw Loans\*\*](#) (Released 1/6/21)
- [\*\*Accessing Capital for Minority Underserved, Veteran and Women-Owned Business Concerns Guidance\*\*](#) (Released 1/6/21)
- [\*\*Procedural Notice – Modifications to SBA Forms 3506, 3507 and 750 CA \(PPP only\)\*\*](#) (Released 1/8/21)
- [\*\*Procedural Notice - SBA Procedural Notice on Repeal of EIDL Advance Deduction Requirement\*\*](#) (Released 1/8/21)

## **Testing Sites & Response to a COVID-19 Positive Employee**

The Restaurant Law Center have created these documents which outline what restaurant operators should do in the event of an employee testing positive for COVID-19. They address what to do if an employee is sick as well as what to do for employees who were exposed but are asymptomatic, and includes relevant links from the CDC, EEOC, or OSHA for additional guidance.

[\*\*COVID-19 Testing Sites\*\*](#)

[\*\*Guidance for Restaurants Responding to a COVID-19 Positive Employee\*\*](#)

[\*\*On-Premises Workplace Infection Control Practices\*\*](#)

## **Notice of Recall for Employees**

As reopening begins, you may use the following Notice of Recall template to contact your employees prior to scheduling shifts so that they may declare their intention to return to work.

[\*\*Notice of Recall template\*\*](#)

The following checklists, provided by **Ecolab**, can be used to ensure operational readiness in foodservice establishments upon reopening:

- [\*\*Guidance for Resuming Operations - Foodservice\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Owner-Exec Checklist for Reopening - Foodservice\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Manager Checklist for Reopening - Foodservice\*\*](#)

## **Workers' Compensation Insurance Alert**

For those restaurants that have secured PPP funding The National Council on Compensation Insurance has [released guidance](#) for carriers that allows the exclusion of payroll from workers compensation premium calculations when the workers are being paid but not actually working. This is especially important when an employee may be working part time but the employer is paying full time wages, as some are doing absent federal government funding. The onus of wage separation is on the policyholder.

The [audit instructions attachment](#) provides guidance.

## Resources for Restaurant Owners

- [Small Business Administration - \*view all Coronavirus Relief Options\*](#)
- [Maryland Business Express](#) - resources for Maryland businesses
- [COVID-19 Related Tax Credits](#) - IRS website
- [Handwashing Poster](#) - English & Spanish

## Operational & Marketing Tools for Restaurants

The companies and products listed below are not endorsed by RAM. However, they are resources that may be relevant to your business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [BELFOR's 3-Step Deep Clean System](#) - BIOPROTECT™ antimicrobial technology for high-touch surfaces
  - **Contact:** [Jim Snyder](#) or [Todd Stiegler](#)
- [TITAN Air & Surface Sanitizers from AC Beverage](#) - chemical-free, 24/7 sanitizing systems
- [MyCheck Click To Order](#) - Mobile and Online Ordering
- [Essential Systems Solutions](#) - Online Ordering
- [Carey Sales & Services](#) - Custom Safety Shields
- [Patio and Overhead Heat Lamps](#) - EMR is here to help winterize your outdoor seating area **\*supplies are limited and in high demand\***
  - **Contact EMR's Parts Department:** [parts@emrco.com](mailto:parts@emrco.com) or 410-467-8095
- [DoorDash + RAM Pricing Structure Presentation](#) (5/24/2021)

## Archive: RAM Statements & Letters to Local Government

March 16, 2020: [RAM Statement](#)

March 20, 2020: [Restaurant Letter to Governor Hogan](#)

April 4, 2020: [Letter to the National Governors Association](#)

April 20, 2020: [National Restaurant Association Letter to House-Senate Leaders](#)

April 28, 2020: [MARYLAND RESTAURANT & BAR RECOVERY Advisory](#)

Group Report

**May 15, 2020:** Buffet Reopening - Letter to Governor Hogan

**August 26, 2020:** Maryland Restaurant Week "Sales Tax Holiday" - Letter to Governor Hogan

**September 1, 2020:** Reopening Requests for Restaurants in Phase 2 - Letter to Governor Hogan

**February 24, 2021:** Request Lifting All Restaurant Restrictions - Letter to Governor Hogan

**March 2021:** Maryland Restaurant and Foodservice Recovery