



200 South Street, P.O. Box 914
Morristown, NJ 07963-0914

Jillian C. Barrick, AICP, P.P.
Business Administrator
Tel: (973) 292-6625
Fax: (973) 267-2726

OUTSIDE DINING IN MORRISTOWN

JUNE 5, 2020

Morristown Restaurant Owners,

The Town of Morristown understands that every business continues to face challenges during these unprecedented times. As the Governor continues to modify and issue new Executive Orders, we will do our best to work with each of you to make doing business easier. We have already issued a waiver for sidewalk café permit fees for this year.

As you likely already know, EO 150 issued on June 3 allows for restaurants to resume services through outside dining beginning Monday, June 15, 2020. To facilitate the ability for our restaurants to expand their capacity outside as much as reasonably possible, we encourage our restaurateurs to consider establishing a sidewalk café. This year, in light of the limitations that COVID-19 has placed on food establishments, the Town will relax some rules regarding sidewalk cafés. Subject to review for safety and other conflicts, the Town will consider applications with the following modifications subject to review and approval:

- A café may extend in front of adjacent business(es) with the permission of the property owner and the affected business(es). This is especially effective when hours are complementary.
- A café may be placed in front of your establishment from your storefront to the curb
- A café may be placed in front of your establishment into the parking stall(s) immediately in front that are not otherwise occupied or dedicated for loading, curbside pick-up or handicapped parking. Should this be approved, the Town will provide safety barriers to be placed on the street side of the parking space. Barriers are available on a first come first served basis while supplies last. We will do our best to accommodate requests.
- A café may be placed on adjacent private vacant property (like a parking lot or lawn) with the permission of the property owner.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SIDEWALK CAFÉ?

Each business who wants to have a sidewalk café in the public right-of-way must submit an application (forms attached) for a permit through the Clerk's Office that includes:

- Completed Application
- Certificate of Liability Insurance
- Diagram of proposed café including dimensions and placement of furnishings

- Signed affidavit(s) from each property owner and affected business for any café that expands to another property giving permission for the café placement.

Each sidewalk café proposal must:

- Comply with the Governor’s executive orders and the guidance issued by the NJ Department of Health (both of which are attached to this document)
- Include an unobstructed path for pedestrians that meets ADA guidelines
- Consider trees, meters, and car door swings in the layout

Furnishing the café is the responsibility of the business owners.

Each sidewalk café proposal will be reviewed for safety and compliance with the Governor’s Executive Orders. We will do our best to work with each business to identify a plan that can be approved.

WHAT IF I HAVE A LIQUOR LICENSE?

A temporary license must be obtained from the State to serve alcohol in an expanded sidewalk café. The State has issued guidance specific for liquor license holders (attached). Please refer to this guidance for additional information.

CAN THE TOWN CLOSE SOUTH STREET TO ALLOW AS MUCH SPACE AS POSSIBLE?

The Town has sought approval from the State of New Jersey to allow us to close South Street like we do for the Fall Festival as a means of facilitating additional space for restaurants to seat patrons in the street, as is planned in many other communities. Unfortunately, our request was denied. We are forced to only consider alternatives that do not close a state highway.

WHAT ABOUT SIDE STREET THAT BELONGS TO THE TOWN?

The Town will consider applications that include the partial/full closure of adjacent side streets for limited periods of time (like a Saturday night) if it can be accommodated safely. If your business is adjacent to a street where this may be possible, please reach out to us or work through the Partnership to discuss.

I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION...

Please reach out to Jen Wehring at the Morristown Partnership or my office at 973-292-6626 or j_barrick@townofmorristown.org

Attached for Your Reference:

- Morristown Sidewalk Café Permit Application
- EO 150
- NJ Department of Health Executive Directive No. 20-014 - Covid-19 Protocols for Food or Beverage Establishments Offering Service In Outdoor Areas Pursuant To Executive Order No. 150
- SR 2020-10 (re: Temporary COVID-19 Permit to Expand Liquor License)