

Lincoln County is writing in request to allow provisions of Governor Polis's Executive Order 2020-28 Safer at Home, specifically addressing Section II, A.1. The request from our community is to open restaurant dining rooms to thirty percent of maximum capacity of the establishment.

The prevalence for Lincoln County has been low. In a population of approx. 5,000 people there has been only three cases at this current time and the last confirmed case was March 16, 2020. There has not been any new cases in our county since then.

The county has access to one critical access hospital. If there is a surge from allowing the larger group gatherings, the hospital is able to respond within its scope. If a patient would need to be transferred to a higher level of care the hospital has the capacity with AirLife and a critical access transfer unit. There is minimal access to ventilators. If ventilators were needed in excess, the patients would have to be transferred to a higher level of care. The need for transfer would be determined on an individual basis via triage.

There is a capacity to investigate each new case within twenty four hours, provide an isolation order, trace, and quarantine close contact through our LPHA. The hospital and LPHA have come to an agreement to facilitate help when needed, in the event of an outbreak that the LPHA is unable to handle with the current staffing. The ability for testing in our county is readily available. There are multiple clinics, the hospital, and the LPHA to provide any necessary testing.

In regards to protection of PHO 20-28, this is not a request for a "free for all." Restaurants will be required to provide the maximum capacity of the facility. Then LCPH will allow thirty percent of the maximum capacity. Restaurant staff will be required to wear masks and maintain six feet distance, as best they can. Below are some considerations that restaurants can implement.

- Limit capacity to ensure social distancing is maintained.
 - Possibly based on a percentage of the fire occupancy load
 - Remove tables or use signage at table indicating "Table Not in Use – Social Distancing Table Zone"
 - Create barriers or buffers between and around seating areas
- Limiting group sizes
- Modify menu to create different workflows to "engineer" social distancing in kitchens
- Require reservations for all dine in service
- Not allow seating or customer walk-up to bars in restaurants
- Bars within restaurants are staffed, but only to prepare drinks for customers at allowed seating/tables
- Face covering must be worn by staff

- Signage on the door telling guests that are experiencing COVID-like symptoms to not enter
- Daily health checks/temperature checks of staff
- No self-service of items or buffets (staffed buffets OK)
- Limit reusable items like menus, preferred use of menu boards or single service menus
- No condiment reuse - go to single service
- Hand sanitizer at table
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of all services and increased frequency on high touch items/areas

For facilities that have been closed

- Go through all perishable food items and discard any that were prepared prior to closing or that are out of date
- Flush water (5 minutes) and soda lines
- Deep clean/disinfect facility
- Review guidelines that have been distributed on "new normal" to ensure staff is prepared for the new type of operation
- Conduct virtual meetings with staff to get connected to the requirements prior to opening
- Strongly encourage a menu review and modification to most popular items to avoid overstock and waste
- Contact food distributor to ensure availability of critical items, including hand sanitizers and other cleaning and disinfection supplies

If a restaurant does not want to open their restaurants, that is a decision of that establishment to continue with take-out/curbside. If a restaurant is unable to meet these requirements they are subject to the shut down the dining room area. If they fail to shut down the dining room, they will be shut down by Public Health Environmental Services for 30 days.

If the county begins to see an influx of cases that consist of two or more cases from one establishment. The county will shut down all dining room areas and return to curb side/take-out. Lincoln County residents have been diligent about practicing social distancing.

All of the restaurants in Lincoln County have done a form of take-out/curbside during the PHO 20-28. They have maintained the requirements to stay open. Lincoln County has had three weeks of no new cases, it would be a benefit to our county to open the restaurants slowly and be mindful of the social distancing practices.

Thank you for your time,

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Director of Lincoln County Public Health