



L.A. Al Fresco - Frequently Asked Questions

What is L.A. Al Fresco?

L.A. Al Fresco is a temporary program that streamlines requirements and approvals across multiple City departments to facilitate outdoor dining on sidewalks and parking lots, potentially expanding to streets at a later date. The program aims to help restaurants reopen while allowing customers and employees to maintain the physical distance recommended by public health officials by temporarily relaxing the rules that regulate outdoor dining.

Who can apply?

The program is available to all restaurants in the City of L.A. at <https://corona-virus.la/laalfresco>.

What options are available?

The L.A. Al Fresco options currently include different types of public and private spaces that may be used for outdoor dining during the COVID-19 emergency:

- Private parking lots and other outdoor spaces on restaurant property
- Sidewalks

The City is collecting expressions of interest to expand to the following areas at a future date:

- Street Parking Spaces (Parklets)
- Partial Street Closures
- Street Closures

How soon after applying will I be able to use the space?

Upon application, eligible restaurants will immediately receive approval for sidewalks and restaurant property. Restaurants or entities such as BIDs, Business Associations, and Chambers of Commerce can submit an application expressing their interest for outdoor dining in parking spaces along the street as well as full or partial closures of streets. Restaurants will be notified if the City expands the program to include these spaces.

Will the City cover the costs of equipment required for parklets or street closures?

Outdoor dining in parklets and streets will be included in Phase 2 of the L.A. Al Fresco. The City is still developing the program for outdoor dining in parklets and streets and will provide more information once the program is completed. If the applying entity, such as a Council District,

BID, Business Association, or Chamber of Commerce, is able to cover their own costs, please indicate so in your application notes.

How long will the temporary allowance last?

The temporary allowance will be valid for 90 days, expiring on September 1, 2020. If this program continues past that date, restaurants will have the opportunity to reapply for a new temporary allowance.

How long will the program last?

L.A. Al Fresco will be available for applications throughout the duration of the Mayor's Safer at Home order, and temporary allowances will expire on September 1, 2020. You can learn more about the stages of our response and recovery at <https://corona-virus.la/SaferLA>.

Will restaurants be able to serve alcohol?

Yes, restaurants with existing alcohol permits will be allowed to serve alcohol within the approved area, subject to approval from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), and compliance with a list of standard conditions from the Department of City Planning. The list of standard conditions is included in the application process.

Will bars also be able to apply for the program?

Bars that serve food will also be able to apply for the program, subject to approval from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and a list of standard conditions from the Department of City Planning. The list of standard conditions is included in the application process.

How can I report a business that is not complying with safety standards?

If you see a business operating in violation of the L.A. Al Fresco rules and regulations, please call 3-1-1.

What are the requirements/responsibilities for the restaurants?

Information on the specific requirements and responsibilities of restaurants is available in the application for the temporary allowance. In addition, restaurants will be required to post their temporary allowance certificates for viewing by the general public.

Are there limitations on the hours restaurants are able to operate outdoors?

Temporary outdoor dining areas shall operate no later than 10:30 pm if adjacent to residentially zoned properties or residential uses.

How will L.A. Al Fresco affect capacity restrictions?

Restaurants approved for the L.A. Al Fresco program will still have to observe indoor capacity restrictions, as determined by the L.A. County Department of Public Health guidelines for restaurants, available here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/>. According to

the L.A. County Department of Public Health, restrictions on outdoor dining capacity will be waived, so long as social distancing and other public health guidelines are observed.

Will customers and restaurant staff be required to wear masks?

Staff must wear masks at all times. Customers must wear masks except for while eating or drinking. More information on L.A. County Department of Public Health guidelines for restaurants can be found here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/>.

Who is responsible for enforcing social distancing?

L.A. County Health Officers will be performing checks on restaurants as part of their routine inspections. Additionally, City of L.A. Business Ambassadors may perform checks.

Will restaurants be able to cook outdoors?

L.A. Al Fresco is not an outdoor cooking program. Only restaurants who are authorized to do outdoor barbecuing or street vendors with a valid permit will be permitted to barbecue outdoors.

How is this different from the County's Outdoor Dining Guidelines?

L.A. Al Fresco is a program only for restaurants in the City of L.A. All restaurants approved for the L.A. Al Fresco program will have to comply with L.A. County Department of Public Health guidelines for restaurants, available here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/>.

Will restaurants be able to extend to additional indoor dining spaces as part of this program?

L.A. Al Fresco does not cover any expansion of indoor dining spaces. Restaurants will still need to adhere to indoor dining capacity restrictions.

If restaurants have additional questions not covered in this Q&A, please direct them to the following email addresses:

- Sidewalks: eng.pcm@lacity.org
- Private Parking Lots and Private Space: cityplanningalfresco@lacity.org
- Street Parking Spots (Parklets) and Street Closures: ladot@lacity.org