



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 3, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

Dear California local leaders,

California is on a path to roar back from the pandemic, in large part thanks to the commitment of Californians and to having one of the highest vaccination rates in the country. Come June 15, we are moving beyond the Blueprint that protected Californians during the worst of the pandemic, retaining in the near-term common-sense face covering requirements, limited testing and vaccination requirements for large indoor events, and modified emergency workplace protection standards still necessary to protect the workforce.

Over the course of the pandemic, one of the key things scientific experts have learned about COVID-19 is that it is far less likely to be transmitted outdoors than indoors. While California is removing the restrictions on business operations indoors, it remains a public health priority to encourage outdoor activities and to remove barriers to outdoor operations.

To this end, my Administration has taken immediate steps to extend the regulatory relief that allows restaurants and bars to maintain their expanded outdoor operations through the end of 2021. Among other things, the regulatory relief continues to allow the expansion of licensed restaurant footprints, expanded outdoor alcohol service, and the sale of alcoholic beverages to go. This will both promote public health by encouraging outdoor dining and promote the economic recovery of the restaurant sectors by allowing restaurants and bars to benefit from the substantial investments that they have made in their outdoor operations.

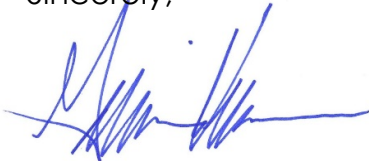
I ask you to join my Administration in promoting public health and economic recovery by taking the steps within your authority to continue to allow expanded outdoor dining opportunities. You are uniquely positioned and

empowered to support local outdoor dining, which will be vital for statewide restaurant recovery, by taking steps such as:

- Allowing temporary dining areas;
- Allowing expanded take-out and delivery options;
- Exercising discretion in working with restaurant owners who may be operating in spaces that are not consistent with local zoning ordinances;
- Considering the potential of expanding areas that are not currently zoned for commercial dining use to encourage outdoor, open-air seating and a safer health environment moving forward; and
- Continuing to develop successful local programs such as the City of San Jose's "Al Fresco" plan, Sacramento's "Farm to Fork Al Fresco," Long Beach's "Open Streets Initiative," San Diego's "Slow Streets Program," and Los Angeles's "L.A. Al Fresco Program."

Thank you for your partnership during the long months of the pandemic, for your continued partnership in keeping Californians safe, and for working collaboratively to make the California Comeback a reality.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Governor of California

Attachment

Eighth Notice of Regulatory Relief