

OFFICE OF Liquor and Gaming REGULATION



Tuesday 24 March 2020

Dear licensees

Thank you all for complying with the Chief Health Officer's (CHO's) directions to date and for implementing measures to protect the health and wellbeing of your fellow Queenslanders.

Below are some FAQs in relation to the closure of licensed venues.

Q: What is happening with our liquor licence fees in light of the closures?

A: This morning the Queensland Government announced a \$4B COVID-19 economic relief package to support Queensland's health, jobs and businesses. Key elements of the package include waiving 2020/21 liquor licencing fees, allowing for a range of payroll tax relief, allocating funds for re-training and job-matching, and providing a \$500 rebate on electricity bills.

Q: Can TABs remain open?

A: TABs located within licensed premises cannot remain open. TAB standalone retail outlets are not captured by the Chief Health Officer's (CHO) directive and, at this stage, can continue to trade.

Q: Can restaurants and cafes sell alcohol to takeaway customers?

A: In ordinary circumstances, restaurants' and cafes' liquor licences are for on-premises sales, in conjunction with the consumption of food. Their licence allows customers to take a partially consumed bottle and one additional bottle off-premises.

OLGR recognises the COVID-19 exceptional circumstances require flexibility to support business.

Restaurants and cafes can supply takeaway alcohol or delivery, subject to the following conditions:

- The takeaway alcohol is supplied with a takeaway food order
- The takeaway alcohol can only consist of bottled or canned beer, wine, cider and ready-to-drink beverages, such as premixed spirits
- A maximum limit of 2.25 litres of alcohol applies per food order.

All licensed premises making takeaway sales should have a system of control in place to ensure liquor is not sold to minors or intoxicated persons.

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Q: Can commercial hotels and community clubs sell liquor for off-premises consumption?

A: Yes. The Liquor Act does not prevent the alcohol being delivered from a hotel or club to the purchaser. While the licensee is required to take the order for liquor at the licensed premises, this may be through various means including in person, by phone or online.

Therefore a person is able to place a liquor order with the licensee and have it delivered to them. You need to ensure the sale and delivery is only made to a person who is not a minor or unduly intoxicated.

Note that sales for clubs are limited to:

- members of the club
- members of reciprocal clubs whose members' reciprocal rights are secured by formal reciprocal arrangements

Q: Can function venues remain open?

A: Entertainment venues of any kind and places where persons congregate for the purpose of worship and fellowship, including weddings, are closed under the CHO's direction. This is in addition to restriction on non-essential mass gatherings of 100 persons or more in a single undivided indoor space. These rules seek to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 and to give full effect to social distancing requirements.

Q: Can I sell takeaway food if my venue was not selling it prior to the shut-down?

A: Licensees will need to contact their local council to ensure they comply with any requirements for takeaway food.
Regards

Victoria Thomson
Commissioner
Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading

Isolated remote community hubs, licensed bowls clubs and golf courses

The Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation are still working to clarify the following items raised by the Prime Minister last night:

1. Reference to the exemption of isolated remote community hubs and what this term applies to.
2. The application of restrictions to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues, and if the intention was to capture outdoor spaces such as beer gardens, rather than bowls clubs and golf courses.

We understand these questions are important to you and we will update you as soon as we can.

Regards,

Victoria Thomson
Commissioner
Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading