

Stage 3 Easing of COVID-19 restrictions



Friday 24 July 2020

Dear licensees

Queensland's Chief Health Officer (CHO) Dr Jeannette Young [today announced](#) the requirement for hotels, pubs, clubs and nightclubs to return to seated drinking and dining **immediately**.

For the past 3 weeks patrons have been able to stand and enjoy a drink, while adhering to patron density rules, but it is challenging for patrons to maintain social distancing while they're out having a drink with friends.

As social distancing is a key element of the strategy to minimise community transmission the CHO directed people be seated when attending licensed venues as it reminds them to keep their distance from others.

People can still go up to a bar and buy a drink, but they must then sit at a table. They can sit at the bar if there are chairs, provided they meet patron density requirements.

Dr Young thanked venues for taking this approach as she knew it was difficult to have tables and chairs in place, but said it made physical distancing easier to achieve.

She also emphasised the importance of adhering to the restrictions, including the gathering of patron contact information, as the aim is to be able to identify the first case in a cluster, not the 65th case. Once the virus spreads it is very hard to control, and restrictions will immediately need to be imposed on everyone.

People must take this seriously because we are at a difficult stage. We have seen what has happened in Victoria and NSW with just a few cases that got out of hand, and they're now struggling with varying degrees to get on top of that.

We need to be prepared that if we get a case in Queensland, we can manage it.

The [Industry COVID Safe Plans](#) are currently being updated to reflect these changes and we will notify you when they are available.

Clubs that offer sporting facilities, such as Golf, Bowls and Tennis can still allow food and liquor to be consumed in their outdoor sporting areas, but patrons must be seated when drinking or dining in their licensed restaurant or clubhouse.

Given the timing of CHO's direction, OLGR compliance officers will be educating venues and working with them over the weekend to achieve compliance.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Regards,

Victoria Thomson
Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming