



SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
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PRESS RELEASE

County of Sussex

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2020

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**County of Sussex Grants Permit-Free Outside Dining Provisions for
County Food Establishments**

(Newton, NJ) As part of facilitating the gradual return for on-site dining at food and beverage establishments within Sussex County during the COVID-19 outbreak, Sussex County's Division of Health has granted a no-cost blanket approval for all licensed food and beverage establishments to allow outside dining at their locations.

According to Carol Novrit, Administrator, Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, all food and beverage establishments may allow outside dining beginning on Monday, June 15, with no additional paperwork needed. This temporary permit expires on December 31, 2020; and any establishment that would like to extend outdoor dining beyond that date must submit a plan application to the Division of Health.

All food and beverage establishments must also comply with municipal ordinances and laws, as well as Executive Order 150 and New Jersey Department of Health's Directive No. 20-014, which both pertain to state guidelines following the COVID-19 pandemic, that permit outside dining for restaurants, bars and other food and beverage establishments.

“Our restaurant community is under tremendous stress at no fault of their own,” said Sussex County Freeholder Anthony Fasano. “These are real people - our family, friends and fellow community members who have devoted their lives to the establishments we love in our communities. We have to make it easier for our restaurants to safely get back to doing what they love and for us to safely get back to eating the food that we love. In Sussex County, we have to get cooking.”

Sussex County Freeholder Herbert Yardley, who said that prior to the pandemic he and his wife enjoyed meeting up with friends at local establishments and taking their dog with them, called the outside dining blanket approval “a great opportunity for everyone.”

“I’m just really glad that establishments are opening up, people can open for business and make money; and get back to normal,” he said.

"I am delighted to see that the county wants to expedite the process for restaurants to move forward by granting temporary approval to all Licensed Food and Beverage Establishments in Sussex County," said Tammie Horsfield, president of both the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and Sussex County Economic Development Partnership. “Our outstanding restaurants are more than ready to welcome back their customers, albeit at a limited capacity, and bring their employees back to work. Restaurants are a critical part of our county's economic engine and we want to help put them back on a path toward success."

Food and beverage establishments with questions may contact Food Program Manager Jennifer Shortino at the Division of Health at: 973-579-0370 or jshortino@sussex.nj.us.

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