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Dear Licensee,

Covid-19 Issues

Working Safely

As you are aware the licensing team are committed to keeping you as informed as you can be, as you all work towards ensuring the safety of both your customers and staff during the current pandemic and to assist you in planning the re-opening of your premises if you are a pub or club, which is anticipated to be 4th July.

The government have published guidance on how to work safely in shops which will be of use to those of you who run shops and off-licences. The link to this guidance is:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/shops-and-branches>

Some of the information will also be of value to publicans as well, although if the government publishes specific guidance for your sector we will of course send the link to it as soon as it is available.

Tables and Chairs licences

Many publicans are hoping to use outside spaces for accommodating their customers and some will already have in a place a “Licence to place Tables and Chairs on the Highway” which is obtained from Kent County Council (KCC).

KCC has now announced that in a drive to support high street recovery it is waiving fees that allow cafes, restaurants and bars to place furniture outside their premises for a period of six weeks. In addition anyone who has applied for a licence but is awaiting a decision will be able to place tables and chairs outside – this does not however apply to licensed premises that will have to remain shut until Government deems they can open. Anyone who has already paid for a licence will have six weeks added to their licence period.

New guidelines have been issued by KCC to ensure that social distancing is observed. Businesses found to be in breach of the conditions can have their licences revoked.

The amended conditions are shown below:

Kent County Council

Licence to place Tables and Chairs on the Highway

Covid-19 Additions and Amendments to Conditions

- *No tables, chairs or temporary street furniture sited on a footway are to be placed within 2.00m of the edge of an adjacent carriageway. A minimum clear footway width of 2.00m must be obtained at all times and 2.5m in busy locations or at busy times. Where this is not achievable, a licence most likely will not be granted.*

- *The licence holder is wholly responsible for ensuring that you are complying with current social distance measures as laid out by the Government. See Government web page <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>*
- *For new applications you must provide a detailed plan clearly showing the extent of the area you wish to use, including dimensions.*
- *If government guidelines are amended to reduce the current 2m requirement the minimum width will revert back to 1.5m and 2.00m respectively*
- *Kent County Council reserve the right to request that temporary street furniture is removed if an emergency arises and increased social distancing space is required.*
- *Existing license holders should be aware that if the Borough or District Council approach you to re-configure or remove tables and chairs to accommodate social distancing measures this must be complied with.*
- *Kent County Council reserve the right to revoke the licence if conditions are breached.*
- *If the licence holder is able to erect a temporary solid screen (i.e. Perspex) between your seating area and passing pedestrians, then the existing 1.5m clearance will still apply.*
- *Where premises are unable to achieve the required distance Kent County Council recommend that you discuss measures with your relevant District or Borough who may be able to assist with measures to reallocate highway space.*

Please be aware that all of the information contained in this newsletter is with the caveat that it will be subject to change as more up to date information, guidelines and regulations are issued by Government.

Our contact details for any queries are:

Email: licensing@swale.gov.uk

Telephone: 01795 417286

Contact details for Kent County Council are:

Website: https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/12707/Tables-and-chairs-licence-pack.pdf

Email: StreetworksMid@kent.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 418181

Kind regards, Licensing Team