

BLLC Community Connection

A Community Engagement Newsletter from the Baltimore City Liquor Board

March 2021

COVID-19 March Update

For the latest information, [view the COVID-19 section of our website](#).

Office Remains Closed to General Public:

Please remember, the BLLC requests that all applications, correspondence, and related materials be **mailed in to the office at 1 North Charles St., Suite 1500, Baltimore, MD, 21201**. Phone lines will remain open from 8:30am to 4:30pm each day, though no one will be available in person at the offices.

COVID-19 Newest Restrictions

On March 25, 2021 the BLLC released guidance for Baltimore City's licensed establishments concerning Mayor Brandon M. Scott's Updated Executive Order as it pertains to licensee operations and requirements, which went into effect March 26, 2021, at 6AM. In general, most licensees can operate at the capacity listed below:

Indoor Dining	Outdoor Dining
50%	75%

For further details and specifics, to see a copy of the BLLC's guidance, please click [here](#). To see a copy of Mayor Scott's Executive Order click [here](#). To see a copy of the Contract Tracing Restaurant Sign-In Sheet provided by the Baltimore City Health Department and Mayor Scott, please click [here](#).

Virtual Hearings:

The BLLC held its first virtual hearing on May 7, 2020. All hearings are available for [viewing on CharmTV](#). The next hearing will be April 15th, 2021, [click here for more information](#).

2021 Renewal – Late Fees Waived

On March 30, 2021, the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City (BLLC) notified Governor Hogan that it will suspend late fees for 30 days for 2021-2022 liquor license renewal applications, from April 1, 2021, to April 30, 2021. Please note that the due dates for the 2021-2022 renewal season have not changed, and ***all applications for annual license renewal and all protests of renewal remain due on March 31, 2021***, as required by state law. To see a copy of the BLLC's Letter to Governor Hogan, click [here](#).

St. Patrick's Day Weekends Report

In collaboration with other City agencies such as the Health Dept., Housing, Fire Dept., and Police Vice Unit, the BLLC was present in many of the main areas of usual St. Patrick's gatherings such as Canton, Federal Hill, and Fells Point. We would like to thank our licensees for maintaining an overall orderly celebration, and for working to abide by the COVID-19 restrictions while opening back up to guests in a controlled fashion. Though a few minor violations were issued, any confusion over capacity and limits was quickly resolved by our agents and inspectors.

Expectations and Reminders as the City Reopens

We at the BLLC understand the stress and hardships of the last year as we faced the COVID-19 pandemic and attempts to stop the spread of the virus. We know that businesses and individuals are eager to get back to a sense of normal. As Spring arrives and further reopening occurs, we ask that you keep the following in mind:

Expectations for licensees:

- The BLLC will provide guidance each time the Mayor or Governor amends restrictions. *For the latest information, [view the COVID-19 section of our website](#).*
- Expect to see a more increased presence from BLLC inspectors and staff as we monitor compliance for COVID-19 restrictions.

Community Reminders:

- As establishments reopen, please be patient as they adjust to changing restrictions. If an establishment appears to be ignoring the current rules, please continue to use 311 to submit complaints to our agency.
- Remember that 50% capacity in one establishment may look very different from another, so what appears to be overcrowding may well be allowed.
- Many community members and associations know the struggle of their local businesses right now. We encourage you to continue the strong support you have already shown during these times.

We would like to thank all of our stakeholders for your cooperation, patience, and perseverance during the past year. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns as we enter this next phase of reopening and rebuilding.