

Back-to-Business Restaurant Task Force – Meeting Minutes
Reopening Guidance for Restaurants

April 30, 2020 at 3:00pm

Meeting conducted using WebEx and in person at
Board of Supervisor Hearing Room
130 W. Congress Street, 1st Floor

Dr. Francisco Garcia began the meeting at 3:03pm.

Restaurant Task Force Members:

Brent DeRaad, Visit Tucson
Janos Wilder, Downtown Kitchen
Dan Bogert, Arizona Restaurant Association
Guileermo Gallegos, American Eat Company
Terry Kyte, Bisbee Breakfast Club
Ray Flores, El Charro
Sean Humphrey, John Henry's Bar, Freight Train Coffee Company
Rocco DiGrazia, Rocco's Little Chicago- Absent
Josh Jacobson, Lucky Wishbone

Pima County Members:

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Deputy County Administrator, Health and Community Services
Dr. Bob England, Health Department Director
Paula Mandel, Pima County Incident Commander
Loni Anderson, Division Manager, Consumer Health and Food Safety
Gary Frucci, Program Manager, Consumer Health and Food Safety

1) Introduction

Mr. Huckelberry shared the purpose of the Back to Business committees and groups is to determine the appropriate and safest way to return to business and normal activity. The guiding concepts will be best public health activities, recommendations, and best practices. Currently only curbside, take out, delivery options are available.

The task of this particular task force is to assist in establishing guidelines to reopen restaurants. Current food code that restaurants are required to adhere to will not change. However there will be permanent, technical and temporary changes that will be added to current code with new practices post Covid-19.

Technical and temporary examples are maintaining physical distancing and reasonable steps to ensure customers are dining in a safe environment. These steps will be temporary measures. The code will be amended where the public health official may impose or remove temporary

measures designed specifically for a public health event similar to the Covid-19 pandemic as needed.

Mr. Huckelberry shared that this meeting is broadcasted on Channel 96, Facebook Live, and WebEx. All the materials viewed today will be made available on the Pima County Back-to-Business webpage. There will be section for the public to provide comments. A Survey Monkey is currently available in English and Spanish for the public who visit restaurants to provide suggestions and comments.

2) **Task Force Goal**

Dr. Garcia shared that during Governor Ducey press conference on April 29 he provided an expectation that by May 18, 2020 there may be further loosening of dine-in restaurant restrictions that were imposed with his Executive Order. Our goal is to determine the plan for when that order is conveyed. The Center for Disease Control has a draft document that will provide guidance however has not been made public. The discussion today is how restaurant operators get back to business in a fiscally feasible way while ensuring patrons feel safe.

Dr. Garcia asked if there are any comments from the Task Force.

- Mr. Humphrey shared that he is the only representative of bars and coffee shops. He would like the same opportunity for small business owners that that restaurants are being given. These establishments are willing to work with the County to come up with good solutions.
- Mr. Flores shared that a group has been formed with the Metro Chamber for a restaurant advisory council. The reasoning is at the local level there is not a unified restaurant group. This group will work with all the business applications to help the County disseminate accurate information, provide uniformity, and clarity.
- Mr. Wilder shared that his concern is timing and what criteria will be used to determine when a restaurant should be opened. He believes that he can make is restaurant and the environment as safe as possible.

Dr. Garcia responded that the timing is controlled by the State. Timing matters, being able to be prepared, and having the resources matters to execute this process.

3) **Situational Update on Covid-19 in Pima County**

Dr. England shared that it's fair to say we have plateaued many of our measures. We have made progress on some standard criteria and guidance for when to begin opening in a phased manner. Some have not fully progressed and Dr. England takes Mr. Wilder's comments to heart. It is important to do the best we can with how to reopen whether we have control over that aspect of not. Keep in mind that in any phase of mitigation reduction

will last 2-3 weeks before the effects are seen due to incubation time, generation of spread. These effects need to be built in to our expectations.

4) **Ensuring a Safe Dining Environment**

Ms. Anderson shared that she appreciates the Task Force feedback and input and will strive to incorporate them into policy. Ms. Anderson's management team is listening on the live stream to ensure uniformity and consistency. Ms. Anderson wants to ensure a safe dining experience for consumers and staff.

5) **Workforce / Monitoring**

Mr. Frucci shared that a lot of recommendations provided today are already built into the food code that is enforced. The public health intervention for a safe workforce includes staff not working if ill and regular hand washing. What will be added is temperature checks of employees and the necessity of not coming to work when ill. Signage will be available for posting to help ensure a safe environment for customers.

Mr. Huckelberry shared that those physically present had to go through a wellness check. Each day this is performed on 3,000-4,000 employees. This may be an issue but is necessary.

6) **Review CHFS DRAFT Guidance for Reopening Food Establishments**

Mr. Frucci reviewed the CHFS recommended Guidance for Reopening Food Establishments, including Mobile Food document. The document is broken up into three sections; facilities that have been closed, during pandemic, partial reopening of on-site dining. This document should be used as a checklist and rate for readiness. This list is not definitive but is the best recommendations at this time. See Attachment #1.

Mr. Huckelberry would like to hear comments on what should be considered strongly encouraged or required. Should the use of personal protective equipment be enhanced? Should patrons be strongly encouraged or required to have a wellness check? These comments submitted using the survey monkey will be valuable to consider as we move forward and to ensure patrons feel comfortable when dining.

Dr. Garcia requested the Task Force provide comments.

- Mr. Humphrey shared that his establishment has been operating as takeaway only following the guidelines and adhere to their liquor license. The draft guidance list for reopening food establishments have bullet points that are currently being adhered to. Partial reopening to include mandatory gloves for staff, cleaning restrooms, agrees with the temperature checks, double outdoor seating, and time schedules for cleaning.

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- 1) Review CHFS DRAFT Guidance for Reopening Food Establishments – CHFS
- 2) Task Force Discussion/Questions – ALL
- 3) Next Steps and Meeting Schedules
- 4) Adjourn

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