

PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2020

CONTACT: Gina Gonzalez
EMAIL: ggonzalez@cityofmeniffee.us

City of Meniffee Offers Temporary Program to Expand Outdoor Dining Spaces

MENIFEE, CA- The City of Meniffee has created a temporary program to expand options for restaurants, and other similar businesses, to operate in outdoor settings adjacent to their businesses. The intent of the program is to allow for greater physical distancing and safety for patrons when the state’s public health orders allow restaurants and bars to resume sit-down service. The Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit program will provide businesses an opportunity to temporarily add or expand dining areas to outdoors as a way to increase occupancy and comply with health guidelines and measures put in place by the State. This program is released in light of recent news that Riverside County received approval to expand to [Stage 2 with Attestation](#).

Restaurants interested in adding new outdoor dining spaces or expanding their existing space on private property can submit a [no-cost “over-the-counter” temporary use permit application](#) to the City Community Development Department with a plan for the location and how they will lay out a space that accommodates customers and meets social distancing guidelines and health measures. Businesses desiring to increase outdoor dining opportunities within privately owned property will need to ensure they receive approvals from the landlord or property owner as part of the application requirements.

“It’s important to do whatever we can to support our local businesses and protect the health and safety of the community,” said Meniffee Mayor Bill Zimmerman. “Social distancing measures require restaurants to reduce their indoor dining capacities – in some cases by half what they would normally accommodate. New opportunities to temporarily add or expand outdoor dining areas on public and private properties provides more space for socially distanced dining and reduced wait times for customers.

Conditions for the program include the following:

- Dining areas cannot block vehicle or pedestrian traffic, or fire access.
- Temporary perimeter barriers shall surround the outdoor dining area (if location in existing parking areas) and should not exceed 36 inches.
- Dining tables must be placed to allow six-foot (6’-0”) social distancing between groups of customers.
- Unless hours of operation are expressly extended or restricted by the permit, hours of operation for outdoor uses shall coincide with their normal hours of operation.

PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 INFORMATION



- Amplified sound is not allowed.
- Restaurants must comply with all applicable State and County laws and regulations pertaining to outdoor dining (including but not limited to sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages) under this provision.
- Permits expire automatically thirty (30) days after the end of the Statewide Declaration of Public Health Emergency unless terminated sooner.
- The outdoor dining area shall not interfere with access under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Expansions beyond the host building storefront/face or property boundaries will be permitted if the affected adjacent property owner(s) consent in writing to this expansion.

###

ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 97,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*