

Talk and listen to your staff

Your staff's level of comfort with opening will be a key factor to reopening your restaurant. Listen to your staff and understand that they may require additional security, like face masks, distance rules, gloves, or limited seating options.

Check your city and state guides

Things change quickly, but city and state governments have put together resources to help you prepare for a reopening date. You should also consider the thresholds of reopening and ensure you meet the requirements. Click here to view State reopening resources from the National Restaurant Association.

Talk to your vendors and supply chain

In order to prepare meals for in-house dining guests, it's important to understand how much inventory you have on hand. Many areas of the industry have been affected by COVID, which means your supply chains may also be experiencing delays or shortages. Talk to your vendors to ensure you'll be able to place inventory orders to fulfill guest's meals.

4 Put customer safety first

Your guests may have initial concerns about eating out even after limitations have been lifted. Ensure your dining room is spread out far enough that guests feel safe and are not sitting too close together. This will also help relieve your staff of any concerns.

5 Higher hygiene standards

Increase your hand washing policy and encourage staff to wipe down surfaces more often. This is a good practice to implement regardless of COVID, and will help prevent the spread of illness.

6 Create a store flow

To make sure customers and staff are following social-distancing guidelines, outline distances when necessary, like pick-up lines or table wait lines. You can place strips of tape on the floor or print out signage to maintain 6ft separation.

7 Make sure your online hours are correct

Google and Yelp took steps towards updating restaurant hours on their platforms during the pandemic. This may mean your store, online, shows you have different or incorrect hours. Contact your account rep or support teams to make sure your hours are adjusted.

8 Include hand sanitizer for guests
Offer a bottle of hand sanitizer on each table,
if possible, or near doorways.

9 Final cleaning

While you've probably kept your space clean, or haven't been using it as frequently, it's important to do a full cleaning/disinfection of your restaurant prior to opening for the public. This will keep customers at ease and get rid of any lingering germs.

Have a protocol in place if an employee gets ill

If your employee comes down with COVID-19, ensure you have a plan in place on how to mitigate the situation. Make sure your other staff members are healthy, ask for testing as necessary, and prepare to pause service again, if required.

Follow the CDC guidelines for reopening

Don't get a fine! Make sure you're following the CDC guidelines for reopening. Click here to visit the CDC website.

