

# Q&A: Alberta's Relaunch Strategy



## **When are liquor-licensed establishments in Calgary and Brooks opening up?**

A significant decline in the number of active cases of COVID-19 in Calgary and Brooks means both cities can reopen more businesses.

Starting May 25, cafes, restaurants, pubs and bars in Calgary and Brooks can open for table service at only 50 per cent capacity.

## **Where can liquor-licensed establishments find more information on specific health and safety guidelines to follow as part of stage one?**

The Alberta government has launched a new online resource, [alberta.ca/BizConnect](https://alberta.ca/BizConnect), to provide business owners with information on health and safety guidelines for general workplaces, as well as operational guidelines for those able to open in stage one.

Businesses permitted to reopen during stage one will be subject to strict infection prevention and control measures, and will be carefully monitored for compliance with public health orders. Businesses and locations that are reopening can access a template on the Biz Connect web page to help plan how employees and patrons will be protected from the spread of infection. Completion of this template is voluntary for liquor-licensed businesses. All gaming facility operators and retailers (casinos, racing entertainment centres, bingo halls and VLT retailers) are required to provide an operational plan to AGLC as they prepare for reopening in the future.

It will be up to business operators to determine if they are ready to open and ensure all guidance has been met. Licensees are encouraged to consult with their Alberta Health Services inspectors to ensure compliance with the enhanced health and safety guidelines.

## **What kind of recreational activities or entertainment will be allowed in licensed establishments opening up in stage one?**

Facilities are open for dining, delivery and take-out only. Recreational activities or entertainment within bars, cafes or pubs are not allowed at this time. This includes dancing or karaoke; playing VLTs, billiards, pool, video games, or jukeboxes; or using shisha, hookah and water pipes, and other activities.

## **Will eligible licensed establishments determine themselves if they are open for business for stage one?**

It will be up to business operators to determine if they are ready to open and they can ensure all guidance has been met.

## **Are nightclub or shisha bar-style operations allowed to open?**

As of May 14, 2020, nightclub or shisha bar-style operations are not approved to be open. Business owners of these establishments may contact Alberta Health Services and ask for approval if premises are reconfigured and adhere to meet health and safety requirements.

### **Can a restaurant or bar inside a casino open up in stage one?**

Yes, restaurants in casinos can reopen as part of stage one but casino gaming operations are not included as part of the first stage so patrons will not be able to participate in gambling activities.

A bar inside a casino can operate providing physical distancing rules are followed, there is table service only and no seating at the bar. More information on workplace health and safety guidelines can be found at [Alberta.ca/BizConnect](https://alberta.ca/BizConnect).

### **Will AGLC allow liquor-licensed establishments to sell growlers given the large inventory of unsold beer on tap?**

Yes; for draught beer, the cap design of the container (e.g., growlers or crowlers) should demonstrate the container has not been opened during transportation. For more information, please review the [liquor off-sales and delivery fact sheet](#) posted on Alberta.ca.

### **Will liquor licensees that temporarily converted their licence type to allow for off-site liquor consumption through take-out or delivery orders be required to revert back?**

Converted licences will not automatically revert back on May 14. Circumstances and timelines will vary for different businesses and depending on direction from health authorities, may occur in different stages. If licensees have questions about their specific licence, they can contact AGLC directly by email at [inspections.mailbox@aglc.ca](mailto:inspections.mailbox@aglc.ca).

### **Are liquor-licensed establishments with a licensed patio able to increase the size of their patios? What about licensed establishments who do not currently have a licensed patio?**

Yes. Licensees can contact AGLC and provide us with information on the new size and capacity to ensure the patio still meets licensing requirements.

Licensees looking to establish a patio should contact their local municipality to ensure the patio meets all municipal and licensing requirements.

### **In the event of inclement weather (i.e., rain, snow, cold), if patrons move from the patio to inside the establishment, does this exceed 50 per cent capacity?**

Establishments are responsible for ensuring that physical distancing requirements are in place for both indoor and outdoor seating to ensure no more than 50 per cent capacity, as per Alberta's health and safety guidelines for [restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars](#).

### **Will patrons be allowed to sit at the bar if plexiglass barriers are installed at the bar?**

No. At this time, only table service is permitted in eligible venues at only 50 per cent capacity.

### **Who will enforce these rules?**

Local public health officials will do so under public emergency declaration. AGLC inspectors will also be checking for compliance. Non-compliance may result in an immediate suspension of the liquor licence.

### **When will casinos, racing entertainment centres and bingo halls reopen?**

A specific timeline has not been identified. AGLC is working closely with the Alberta government and gaming facility operators, and will provide details once more information is available.

### **Some liquor producers were able to shift their manufacturing capacity to support response efforts. How long will they be allowed to do this?**

Some Alberta distillers have begun producing alcohol-based hand sanitizers in their facilities to help fill a gap in many markets due to the COVID-19 health crisis. AGLC is supporting the manufacturers' efforts and more information for them can be found at [aglc.ca/bulletin/production-hand-sanitizer-class-e](https://aglc.ca/bulletin/production-hand-sanitizer-class-e).

### **How do I make a complaint about a licensed premises that is not adhering to provincial health directives?**

While this announcement is encouraging news for many Albertans and businesses, AGLC reminds licensees of their responsibility to adhere to the orders. Venues that contravene the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Health risk immediate suspension of their licence.

Complaints can be submitted by email at [Inspections.Mailbox@aglc.ca](mailto:Inspections.Mailbox@aglc.ca). Please be sure to include the premises operating name and address, including town, along with the details of your complaint.