

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FROM: Office of the Mayor
City of Ottawa
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Closing of Restaurants, Bars and Gaming Cafes

In light of Governor Pritzker's recent executive order to close all bars and restaurants effective March 16, 2020 at 9:00 p.m., we are reminding all owners that they should not allow any patrons in their establishment. This order includes, all restaurants, regardless if the restaurant has a liquor license, fast-food restaurants, all bars, gaming café's, ice cream shops, private clubs, and not-for-profit entities. No patrons should be entering any of these establishment and restrooms are not to be open to the public.

Restaurants and bars that serve food may not have any dine-in customers; however, restaurants may have curbside pickup or drive-through service along with delivery services. Additionally, if requested by the restaurant, the City will restrict parking in front of restaurants without parking lots to ensure restaurants have a location for customer pick-ups. This will hopefully permit additional restaurants to continue operating in a limited capacity.

We understand this order is a significant hardship for all owners and will have major impact on your business and your employees. We also understand you are all small business owners who rely on this income not just for your business, but also your livelihoods. This is a decision that was not taken lightly, and at this time of uncertainty, we all need to do our part in the community to stop the spread of the coronavirus. We are taking this mandate from the Governor very seriously and asking every liquor license holder to comply voluntarily. Our police department will be enforcing this order, and in the event of non-compliance, you will be subject to fines and the possibility of suspension or revocation of your liquor license. We appreciate all the restaurants and bars in our community and hope you see the importance in stopping the spread of this virus in these uncertain times.