



BUSINESS BEAT

Economic Development News



May 21, 2020

ALERT: **Manassas Helps Businesses Meet New Phase 1 Reopening Guidelines**



As Northern Virginia waits to move into Phase 1 of reopening, Manassas has made it easier for retailers and restaurants to safely comply with the social distancing requirement. The reopening requirements impose restrictions on a businesses' capacity by limiting the number of people who can occupy a space and requiring separation between customers and tables. In Phase 1 restaurants can only accommodate 50% of their normal customers and must serve them outside.

Because most restaurants have limited (or no) outdoor seating, City Council has amended an Ordinance governing the use of public streets and sidewalks and the City's Department of Community Development has taken administrative action to make it easier for businesses to operate in the common areas on private property. The two actions collectively will allow restaurants, and retailers if they wish, to establish outdoor dining and service areas for their customers. The City will begin working immediately with restaurants in the Historic Downtown on potential street closures and expanding sidewalk dining as well as opening up publicly owned property for table seating.

Full Press Release



The Department of Economic Development exists, in large degree, to support the businesses in our community. We take that charge very seriously and will continue to share information we feel will be timely, pertinent and helpful to you. This includes links to other agencies and resources that we will send out separately.

We also encourage your feedback. Please share ideas and information you have that would be helpful to our local businesses directly with us either on our FB page ([ChooseManassas](#)) or by email, at:
psmall@manassasva.gov or nsmith@manassasva.gov.

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City of Manassas Economic Development Department

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