



# **COLORADO**

## **Department of Revenue**

Specialized Business Group—  
Liquor & Tobacco  
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**December 23, 2020**

Dear Liquor Stakeholders,

The Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) has received recent inquiries regarding the allowable sales and service times for alcohol beverages under various Public Health Orders (PHOs) in effect. We would like to offer a few points of clarification regarding allowable practices:

- It is vitally important that you check your local public health orders, as localities are able to institute curfews or place more restrictive measures on the sales and service of alcohol beverages than what is outlined in State Public Health Orders. Therefore, it is possible that what is allowable under the State Public Health Order currently in effect is not permitted in any given locality.
- The State Public Health Order currently in effect (PHO 20-36) outlines alcohol service parameters for counties in various levels of the COVID-19 dial. Some levels require that restaurants (as defined in the order) “cease alcohol beverage sales to end consumers for on-premises consumption and takeout...” during a certain time frame (for example, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. for localities in the “level orange” risk category). This means that no sales may be completed (for consumption on the premises or takeout) after the established time, but does not prohibit a patron who had placed their order prior to the sales cut-off time from finishing their beverage on the licensed premises, and does not require that tables be cleared of alcohol beverages at that time.
- The State public health order is not currently set as a curfew measure and does not explicitly set out hours of operation for food service or mandate business closure at any specific time. However, it is important to note that some dial levels do prevent indoor dining or place other restrictions on typical business operations.
- While sales prior to the outlined times are not restricted, we would like to remind all licensees that over-service of alcohol beverages is a severe public health risk and not in keeping with the spirit of protecting our neighbors and communities, which should always be at the forefront of our considerations.

We would like to thank you for your continued cooperative efforts in following public health guidance as we work together to overcome this devastating pandemic and emerge as a more robust and resilient industry. Please reach out to [dor\\_led@state.co.us](mailto:dor_led@state.co.us) with any questions, and have a safe and happy holiday season.

**Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division**