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CITY OF PITTSBURGH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
CITY-COUNTY BUILDING

To: Pittsburgh businesses planning St. Patrick's Day events

From: Wendell D. Hissrich, City of Pittsburgh Public Safety Director, and Allison Harnden, Nighttime Economy Manager

Re: COVID-19 Precautions

Good day,

As everyone is aware, the COVID-19 virus is impacting nearly every facet of life, and St. Patrick's Day events are no exception. This morning, the City of Pittsburgh joined multiple other cities – including Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Dublin, Ireland – in cancelling the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. (<https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/3718>)

Still, we understand that large groups of people will likely gather in the city's entertainment venues and districts to celebrate the holiday. As such, the City's Public Safety Department is providing guidance to businesses and patrons regarding best practices for this weekend. Considering the seriousness of this virus and its rapid spread, we strongly urge all restaurants, bars and clubs to:

- **Consider lowering occupancy rates to ensure more personal space for customers**
- **Clean bathrooms regularly (suggested every 30 minutes)**
- **Have soap available at all times in bathrooms for handwashing**
- **Provide hand sanitizer in other areas of the establishment (sanitizer should be 60 to 95 percent alcohol)**
- **Use disposable cups**
- **Regularly wash and sanitize counters, tabletops and all other frequently-touched objects and surfaces**
- **Cough or sneeze into your arm**
- **Do NOT permit any staff to work if they are sick**

If you or your staff encounter a customer who appears to be sick, we strongly urge all restaurants, bars and clubs to:

- **Keep employees at least 6 feet from the customer**
- **Provide additional napkins and sanitizer for the customer**
- **Dispose of any food or drink with which that customer came into contact**
- **Wash and sanitize any utensils or plates with which that customer came into contact**
- **Segregate any area that becomes contaminated with bodily fluids, and make sure employees use Personal Protection Equipment while cleaning contaminated areas**

Re: COVID-19 Precautions

For more information/guidance, the Allegheny County Health Department has created the following website as a COVID-19 resource:

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19.aspx>

In addition, the CDC offers guidance on hosting large gatherings at this site:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fmass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html


Public Safety is also advising the public on steps they should take to protect themselves during St. Patrick's Day events. This information includes:

- **Do NOT go out if you are sick**
- **Wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds**
- **Use hand sanitizer when available**
- **Do not share cups/drinks**
- **Avoid touching your mouth, ears and nose**
- **Do not kiss people you do not know**
- **Observe "social distancing," which according to the CDC means "remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible." The CDC recommends all people, even those with no identifiable risk, practice social distancing as a precaution.**

Thank you for your time, and have a safe St. Patrick's Day.

Sincerely,


Wendell D. Hissrich, Public Safety Director


Allison Harnden, Nighttime Economy Manager