



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
Avenue Grille
Violations of Executive Orders and
RI Department of Health Regulations**

PARTIAL IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE ORDER

Now comes the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”), as informed by the Chair (“Chair”) of the Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force (“Task Force”), and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-1-20 and 23-1-21, Executive Orders 21-22 and 21-24 (“Executive Orders”), and the RIDOH rules and regulations pertaining to Safe Activities By Covered Entities During the COVID-19 Emergency (216-RICR-50-15-7) (“Safe Regulations”), determines that Avenue Grill (“Respondent”) is in violation of applicable Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations, which violations require immediate action to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

On March 9, 2020, Governor Gina M. Raimondo declared a state of emergency for the State of Rhode Island due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19. The Safe Regulations were promulgated as an emergency rule, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.10, based on a finding that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare required immediate promulgation of the rule, specifically that “[i]n order to prevent further spread of COVID-19 as individuals begin to leave their homes more frequently and establishments begin to reopen, protective measures must be followed and

implemented for individuals and establishments to resume operations so that the public's health and welfare is protected."

GROUND FOR DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION

- I. Respondent is a dining establishment located at 2223 Mineral Springs Avenue in North Providence.
- II. Respondent is a covered entity as defined in the Safe Regulations. As such, the Respondent is required to comply with applicable Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations.
- III. On or about March 3, 2021, a Task Force inspector conducted a Healthy Environment inspection of the Respondent. The inspector performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations and determined that Respondent scored an 11/12 for overall requirements, a 5/5 for dining requirements, and a 3/5 for bar requirements. Of significance was the fact that the Respondent did not have physical barrier installed between the bar/countertop work areas and customers.
- IV. After the inspection, the inspector provided information and resources, including the requirement that such a barrier was required, to the Respondent to help it achieve full compliance. This also included a recommendation to the Respondent on how to access www.ReopeningRI.com and the relevant websites for the Executive Orders, rules, regulations, and guidance. The Respondent was also advised that an inspector would conduct a reinspection in the near future.
- V. On or about March 17, 2021, a Task Force inspector conducted a spot check inspection of the Respondent to determine compliance with the Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations. Of significance, the inspector observed that the Respondent was still operating its bar/countertop area without a physical nonporous barrier installed.
- VI. Therefore, as a result of the Respondent's continued failure to comply with applicable Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations, and in the absence of any other information to rebut the

allegations above, RIDOH has drawn the conclusion that the above allegations are true, and the Respondent is not in compliance with applicable Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations.

VIOLATIONS

The following alleged violations stem from the March 17, 2021 spot check.

- I. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(6) of the Safe Regulations, which requires that:
 - a. when parties are seated at the bar, no staff are permitted to work in any areas behind the bar and all work areas behind the bar unless a physical, non-porous barrier of appropriate height and made of a material which complies with the interior finish requirements of the State Fire Code, is installed between the bar work areas and customers; and
 - b. even with physical barriers between bar work areas and customers, staff may only serve seated customers drinks and food through a gap or opening in the barrier that is no more than eight (8) inches in size; and,
 - c. working bar areas (e.g. drink making stations or glassware storage) must be located at least six (6) feet from these gaps. Drinks and/or food may not be passed to customers under, over, or around such barrier by staff behind the bar.

The inspector observed that the bar/countertop was in use without a nonporous physical barrier installed between the bar/countertop work areas and customers.

ORDER

It is hereby **ORDERED**, that Respondent is to immediately close its bar/countertop area until such time as the violation is remedied to the satisfaction of the Director of RIDOH by fulfilling the condition as set forth below:

- I. Respondent shall ensure that

- a. when parties are seated at the bar, no staff are permitted to work in any areas behind the bar and all work areas behind the bar unless a physical, non-porous barrier (i.e., plexiglass) of appropriate height is installed between the bar work areas and customers; and
- b. even with physical barriers between bar work areas and customers, staff may only serve seated customers drinks and food through a gap or opening in the barrier that is no more than eight (8) inches in size; and,
- c. working bar areas (e.g. drink making stations or glassware storage) are located at least six (6) feet from these gaps and that drinks and/or food is not passed to customers under, over, or around such barrier by staff behind the bar.

Entered this 23rd day of March 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Alexander-Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "A".

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Director
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