



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

**ELIZABETH M. TANNER, ESQ.  
IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIR OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND COVID-19 ENFORCEMENT  
TASK FORCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:  
Bottom Line Bar & Grill  
Violations of Executive Orders and  
RI Department of Health Regulations**

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND COMPLIANCE ORDER**

Now comes the Chair (“Chair”) of the Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force (“Task Force”) and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-1-20, Executive Order 21-11 (Executive Order), and Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”) regulation 216-RICR-50-15-7 (“Safe Regulations”), determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Bottom Line Bar & Grill (“Respondent”) is in violation of Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations, and provides notice thereof.

**REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION**

- I. Respondent is a dining establishment located at 415 Palmer Avenue in Warwick.
- 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 October 6, 2020, 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 a 12/12 for overall requirements, a 5/5 for dining requirements, and a 7/7 for bar requirements.

- IV. On or about December 29, 2020, a different 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 a 9/12 for overall requirements and a 5/5 for dining requirements. No bar inspection took place due to a statewide bar closure pursuant to Executive Order. After the inspection, the inspector provided information and resources to the Respondent to help it achieve full compliance. This included a recommendation to the Respondent on how to access [www.ReopeningRI.com](http://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 February 6, 2021, a different Task Force inspector conducted a reinspection of the Respondent. The inspector met with a co-owner and performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations. The inspector determined that the Respondent scored a 7/12 for overall requirements, a 2/5 for dining requirements, and a 3/7 for bar requirements.
- VI. Therefore, as a result of the Respondent's failure to maintain compliance 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.

#### **ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

The following alleged violations stem from the February 6, 2021 reinspection.

- I. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(3) of the Safe Regulations, which requires all individuals in an establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless an exception applies and

requires establishments to deny entry to any employee, who is not otherwise exempt from the requirement or who refuses to wear a cloth face covering when required. The inspector observed one (1) employee in the kitchen who was not wearing a cloth face covering. The employee did not claim an exception.

- II. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(1)(a) of the Safe Regulations, which requires establishments to ensure compliance with a plan that includes procedures relative to, among other things, physical distancing at all times, to the extent feasible, and additional measures to be taken in high traffic, communal, or other areas where physical distancing is not feasible. The inspector observed that there were no measures in place to ensure that physical distancing was maintained and that due to the number of customers in the establishment, physical distancing was not maintained to the extent feasible.
- III. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(4) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to ensure the placement of posters or signs at entry to its establishments educating any individual at the establishment concerning entry screening, required physical distancing, use of cloth face coverings, and other subjects as provided in guidance issued by RIDOH. Although some of the required information was posted at the entry to the establishment, information pertaining to symptoms and screening was missing. The inspector concluded, therefore, that the Respondent failed to ensure the placement of required posters.
- IV. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(2) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to implement and ensure compliance with screening of all individuals entering its establishment(s) at any time for any reason. The inspector observed several customers enter the establishment, none of which were screened by the Respondent. In addition, there were no posters visible at or near the entrance concerning entry screening.

- V. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1(A)(8) of the Safe Regulations, which requires all covered entities to maintain an employee work log that identifies the full name, phone number, and the date and time of all shifts worked by each employee. This work log must be maintained for at least thirty (30) days. Upon request, Respondent could not produce an employee work log.
- VI. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(1)(a) of the Safe Regulations, which requires that tables be separated by at least eight (8) feet from table edge to table edge or to allow six (6) feet spacing between seated customers at different tables unless separated by a physical, non-porous barrier of an appropriate height. The inspector observed that numerous tables were not separated by a barrier of any kind and were neither spaced at least eight (8) feet from table edge to table edge nor allowed six (6) feet of spacing between seated customers at different tables.
- VII. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(2) of the Safe Regulations, which prohibits self-service seating. The inspector observed that patrons were allowed to seat themselves without assistance by the Respondent.
- VIII. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(3) of the Safe Regulations, which prohibits service to standing customers. The inspector observed at least four (4) customers walk up to the bar to order a beverage and then take it back to their table.
- IX. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(5) of the Safe Regulations, which requires that all parties seated at a bar be separated by at least 6 feet, unless separated by a physical, non-porous barrier of an appropriate height. The inspector observed that customers seated at the bar were not separated by a barrier of any kind and were not spaced at least six (6) feet apart.
- X. Respondent is in violation of Executive Order 21-11, which states in pertinent part, that at all times, a licensee must close its bar area, including but not limited to the bar counter and seating at the bar counter, and ensure that the bar area is not accessible to patrons. All such bars, restaurants and other establishments must rope off the bar area and make seating at the bar

counter unavailable to customers. The inspector observed that the bar area was open, allowing seating, and providing service to customers. (See "Exhibit A")

- XI. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.1.(A)(12) of the Safe Regulations, which prohibits congregating and/or mingling in an establishment or areas under the establishment's control. The inspector observed that customers were impermissibly mingling at the bar area. (See "Exhibit A")

### **ORDER**

It is hereby ORDERED, that on or before the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day from service of this Notice of Violation and Compliance Order, Respondent shall remedy the above cited violations and come into full compliance with applicable Executive Orders and Regulations, by fulfilling the conditions as set forth below:

- I. Respondent shall require all employees in its establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless an exception applies. In accordance with Section 7.4.1(3)(a) of the Safe Regulations, Respondent shall deny access to its establishment to any employee who refuses to wear a cloth face covering when required by the Safe Regulations unless an exception applies.
- II. Respondent shall ensure compliance with its plan for safe operation, required pursuant to Section 7.4.1(A)(1) of the Safe Regulations, including compliance with, among other things, procedures consistent with the Safe Regulations relative to physical distancing at all times, to the extent feasible, and additional measures to be taken in high traffic, communal, or other areas where physical distancing is not feasible.
- III. Respondent shall ensure the placement of posters or signs at entry to its establishment educating any individual at the establishment concerning entry screening, required physical distancing, use of cloth face coverings, and other subjects as provided in guidance issued by RIDOH.
- IV. Respondent shall implement and ensure compliance with screening of all individuals entering its establishment(s) at any time for any reason.

- V. Respondent shall maintain an employee work log that identifies the full name, phone number, and the date and time of all shifts worked by each employee. This work log must be maintained for at least thirty (30) days.
- VI. Respondent shall ensure that tables are situated to allow separation of at least eight (8) feet from table edge to table edge or to allow six (6) feet spacing between seated customers at different tables unless separated by a physical, non-porous barrier of an appropriate height.
- VII. Respondent shall ensure that service is made only to seated customers and that no service to standing customers occurs.
- VIII. Respondent shall ensure that its bar area remains closed and roped off until such time as the requirement set forth in Executive Order 21-11, and any successor Executive Order thereto, that bar areas remain closed is lifted.
- IX. When allowed to reopen the bar area, Respondent shall ensure that all parties seated at a bar be separated by at least 6 feet, unless separated by a physical, non-porous barrier of an appropriate height.
- X. Respondent shall ensure that no congregating and/or mingling occurs within the establishment or any area under the establishment's control.
- XI. Respondent shall ensure that all parties are seated by the Respondent and that no self-seating occurs.

**Failure to comply with this ORDER may result in the imposition of civil fines, the issuance of an immediate compliance order, and/or any other action authorized by regulation, the Act, or other applicable law.**

Entered this 9th day of February 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth M. Tanner", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.  
Chair  
Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force  
RI Department of Health  
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Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

**A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A HEARING MAY BE FILED IN WRITING WITHIN  
TEN DAYS AFTER THIS NOTICE**

# EXHIBIT A

