



**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:
El Caribeno Restaurant
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 20-108 (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 El Caribeno Restaurant (“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 226 Academy Avenue in 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 October 2, 2020, a Task Force inspector conducted a Healthy Environment inspection of the Respondent. The inspector met with owner Irolis Ortiz (“Owner”) and performed a

checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations and determined that Respondent scored a 7/12 for overall requirements and a 3/5 for dining requirements. 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 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.

- IV. On or about December 31, 2020, the same Task Force inspector conducted a reinspection of the Respondent. The inspector again met with the Owner and again performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations. The inspector determined that the Respondent this time scored a 6/12 for overall requirements and a 2/5 for dining requirements.
- V. Therefore, as a result of the Respondent's 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.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

The following alleged violations stem from the December 31, 2020 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, who refuses to wear a cloth face covering when required. The inspector observed that an employee waitress 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) of the Safe Regulations, which requires each covered entity to develop, maintain, and ensure compliance with a written plan for the safe operation of the establishment. Upon request, Respondent could not produce a written plan.
- III. Respondent is in violation of Sections 7.4.1(A)(6) & (7) of the Safe Regulations, which require each covered entity to ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of its establishments once per day, to clean commonly touched surfaces, such as shared workstations, elevator buttons, door handles and railings in accordance with CDC guidance for specific industries, and to maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning. The inspector observed that there were dirty surfaces and tables, which he observed to be used by multiple patrons without cleaning between use, and concluded, therefore, that the Respondent did not clean high touch surfaces in accordance with CDC guidelines for its industry. Further, upon request, the Respondent could not produce the required records.
- IV. 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.
- V. 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.

- VI. 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.
- VII. Respondent is in violation of Section 7.4.2(A)(1)(a) of the Safe Regulations, which requires that information be collected from all visitors and other entrants who have interacted with others present on site for a period of 15-minutes or more solely for the purposes of contact tracing. Upon request, the Respondent could not produce the required information.

ORDER

It is hereby ORDERED, that on or before the tenth (10th) 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 instruct all individuals/customers in its establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless an exception applies.
- III. Respondent shall develop, maintain, and ensure compliance with a written plan for the safe operation of the establishment.
- IV. Respondent shall ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of its establishment once per day and maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning.
- V. Respondent shall clean all high touch surfaces in accordance with CDC guidelines, in accordance with its specific industry, and maintain records documenting such cleaning.

- VI. Respondent shall ensure that its establishment has its restroom open, and that they have running water and are stocked with hand soap. If access to restrooms or running water is limited, the establishment shall ensure ready access to hand sanitizer at all times.
- VII. 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.
- VIII. 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.
- IX. Respondent shall ensure that all parties are seated by the Respondent and that no self-seating occurs.
- X. Respondent shall ensure that information be collected from all visitors and other entrants who have interacted with others present on site for a period of 15-minutes or more solely for the purposes of contact tracing.

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 4th day of January, 2021.



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