



**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 Chapin 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 Orders 20-32, 20-40, and 20-79, and Rhode Island Department of Health ("RIDOH") regulation 216-RICR-50-15-7 (the "Safe Regulations"), determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that El Chapin 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 271 Plainfield Street 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 September 4, 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 7/11 for overall requirements, a 2/5 for

dining requirements, a 7/7 for bar 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](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.

- IV. On or about October 4, 2020, a different Task Force inspector conducted a reinspection of the Respondent. The inspector performed a checklist inspection based on the Safe Regulations and determined that the Respondent again scored a 7/12 for overall requirements, a 3/5 for dining requirements, and a 4/7 for bar 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 October 4, 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 physical distancing or 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 seven (7) employees in the store, one of which was not wearing a cloth face covering. The employee did not claim an exception, nor was the employee able to continuously maintain physical distancing.
- 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.

- 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 and to maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning. 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)(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 records.
- VII. 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 six (6) feet, unless separated by a physical, non-porous barrier of an appropriate height. The inspector observed several parties of patrons seated

at the bar who were not separated by at least six (6) feet, nor was there a physical, non-porous barrier separating the parties.

- VIII. 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 numerous patrons in the bar area who were not seated and who were impermissibly congregating/mingling.

## **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 physical distancing can be continuously maintained, or 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 develop, maintain, and ensure compliance with a written plan for the safe operation of the establishment.
- III. Respondent shall ensure the performance of environmental cleaning of its establishment once per day and maintain records documenting such environmental cleaning.
- IV. 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.
- V. 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.

- VI. 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.
- VII. 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.
- VIII. Respondent shall ensure that no congregating and/or mingling occurs within the establishment or any area under the establishment's control.

**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 6th day of October 2020.



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**A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A HEARING MAY BE FILED IN WRITING WITHIN**

**TEN DAYS AFTER THIS NOTICE**