



**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:  
La Colombiana 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 21-09 (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 La Colombiana 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, which maintains a bar area, located at 477 Dexter Street in Central Falls.
- 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 February 6, 2021, at approximately 10:20 p.m., a Task Force inspector conducted a spot check inspection of the Respondent to determine compliance with bar requirements. The inspector observed numerous violations of Executive Orders and the Safe Regulations.
- IV. 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 February 6, 2021 spot check.

- 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 that of the four (4) employees present, one (1) was not wearing a mask and another was wearing it improperly. (See "Exhibit A") Neither employee claimed an exception.
- II. 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 not only was the bar area not roped off or made inaccessible to patrons, due to the high volume of customers within the establishment, many of them were standing at the bar area. (See "Exhibit A")
- III. Respondent is in violation of Executive Order 21-11, which states in pertinent part, that an establishment's indoor dining capacity is limited to 50% of an establishment's regular seating

capacity. The inspector observed that the establishment had exceeded its capacity limitation of 50% because every seat was occupied, and overflow customers were standing at the bar area. (See "Exhibit A")

- IV. 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 as stated above, due to the high volume of patrons present, physical distancing was not being maintained to the extent feasible. (See "Exhibit A")
- V. 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 congregating and/or mingling in areas under the establishment's control, especially the bar area.

#### **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 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.
- III. Respondent shall limit its seating capacity to 50% of its regular indoor seating capacity.
- IV. 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.
- V. Respondent shall ensure that no congregating and/or mingling occurs in 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 9th day of February 2021.



Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.  
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**A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A HEARING MAY BE FILED IN WRITING WITHIN  
TEN DAYS AFTER THIS NOTICE**

# EXHIBIT A

