



**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:
Syn Hookah Lounge
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 (“Safe Regulations”), determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Syn Hookah Lounge (“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 114 Spruce 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 October 11, 2020, at approximately 12:00 a.m., a Task Force inspector conducted a spot check of the Respondent to determine compliance with bar requirements. Upon entering the establishment, the inspector observed violations of the Safe Regulations as described below.
- IV. Based on the foregoing, 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 10, 2020 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 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 four (4) employees in the establishment, three (3) of which were not wearing a cloth face covering. None of the employees claimed an exception, nor were the employees able to continuously maintain physical distancing.
- II. 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 for patrons who were on site for a period of 15 minutes or more.

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 must develop and incorporate into its written control plan a strategy to prevent the violations listed above from reoccurring. Said written plan shall incorporate the following:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 14th day of October 2020.



Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.
Chair
Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force
RI Department of Health
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**A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A HEARING MAY BE FILED IN WRITING WITHIN
TEN DAYS AFTER THIS NOTICE**