



**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:
Zona 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 (the “Safe Regulations”), determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Zona 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 located at 195 Niantic Avenue in Cranston.
- 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 26, 2020, at approximately 10:20 p.m., a Task Force inspector conducted a bar compliance spot check of the Respondent. As described below, the inspector observed numerous violations of applicable Executive Orders and/or the Safe Regulations to be present.

- 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 September 26, 2020 bar compliance 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 approximately eight (8) employees present, one (1) of which was not wearing a cloth face covering. The employee did not claim an exception and was not able to continuously maintain physical distancing. The inspector also observed dozens of patrons who were not wearing cloth face coverings without claiming any exception or the ability to continuously maintain physical distancing. (See "Exhibit A")
- II. 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. (See "Exhibit B")
- III. 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. As stated, above, Respondent admitted to not having the required plan and the inspector observed that there were no measures in place to ensure that physical distancing was maintained. (See “Exhibit A”)

- IV. 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 seating themselves without assistance by the Respondent.
- V. 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) patrons standing at the bar being served. The inspector also observed more than a dozen patrons standing about the establishment being served drinks by waitstaff.
- VI. 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 dozens of patrons standing about the establishment impermissibly congregating and/or mingling. (See “Exhibit A”)

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 individuals/customers in its establishment to wear cloth face coverings unless physical distancing can be continuously maintained, or an exception applies.
- II. 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.

- III. 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.
- IV. 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.
- V. Respondent shall ensure that service is made only to seated customers and that no service to standing customers occurs.
- VI. 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 1st day of October 2020.



Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.
Chair
Rhode Island COVID-19 Enforcement Task Force
RI Department of Health
Cannon Building, Rm. 401
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





EXHIBIT B

