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Client Alert: MA Governor Orders Prohibition Against On-Premises Bar and Restaurant Operations Due to COVID-19

By Adam Barnosky on March 16, 2020

On March 15, 2020, stemming from concerns about COVID-19, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker issued an order prohibiting on-premises bar and restaurant operations.

The order, effective Tuesday, March 17 through April 5, 2020 (unless otherwise extended) states, in part "Any restaurant, bar or establishment that offers food or drink shall not permit on-premises consumption of food or drink; provided that such establishments may continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery provided they follow social distancing set forth in Department of Public Health guidance." The order also bans gatherings of 25 people in a single room or venue.

The text of the order can be found **here**.

Adam Barnosky is a shareholder and co-leads the firm's Hospitality Practice Group. Adam represents various professionals and companies within the hospitality industry, including national hotel brands, James Beard-nominated chefs, industry-recognized fast-casual companies, and numerous premier restaurateurs included in Boston Magazine's Annual "50 Best Restaurants" List. Adam can be reached at arb@riw.com, (617) 570-3519, or on Twitter at @adambarnosky.

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