

28th July 2020

Covid 19: Guidance to KLBD Caterers

Introduction:

1. This document reflects KLBD Guidance to licensees that should be followed when Caterers are approached to cater an event. It reflects a summary and interpretation of the law and the many relevant guidance documents published by Government that are updated on a regular basis.
2. As with all guidance on these matters, safety is the priority, now coupled with the need to release businesses to trade again and provide an important service to the community as the economy re-opens. Finding the right balance can be challenging and it is appropriate that we retain a precautionary approach at this time.
3. Whilst this document is focussed on numbers attending, there are many other obligations on caterers set out in the Government documents and it is essential that caterers are familiar and fully compliant with the most up-to-date versions of these (see the links at the end of this document for some examples).
4. Regardless of location, caterers, working with venue managers and hosts, must address all the guidance relevant to their location and role, and ensure that guests understand what they can and cannot do. Furthermore, whilst we must meet Covid-secure standards, it is important that all involved understand that this minimises, rather than eliminates, the Covid-19 related risks that we all face.

Guidance:

5. Government guidance is currently based around 'units' (our word) of 2 different households (indoors/outdoors) or 6 people from different households (outdoors), in both cases with members of different households socially distanced. Orientation should also be considered – i.e. avoiding people sitting face-to-face. In circumstances where multiple units are permissible, the units must not engage in any form of social interaction with each other, or undertake any other activity with each other otherwise they become one big unit and break the rules. KLBD are currently allowing catering for sit-down meals only – not standing-up receptions.
6. **Private Home:** In a private home (including garden), you can never have more than 30 legally. However, in addition to the legal position, the Government guidance is potentially more restrictive. Our position is as follows: **for a KLBD caterer to cater in a private home (whether inside or out), they must be confident that the event will be lawful, and understand the steps being taken by the event hosts to fulfilling all relevant Government guidance. In any circumstances for an event at a private home, if the host plans an event with more than two households, then the event must be outside. Appropriate social distancing must be in place. KLBD caterers must not cater an event at a private home for more than 2 households inside or 30 people outside.**
7. **Other Venues:** In many other venues, it is possible to have more than 30 for non-life cycle events (see following paragraph), subject to the risk assessment by the venue manager – whose work would also be assessed against meeting the government guidance (as well as adhering to the law). **For a KLBD caterer to cater such an event, then they need to ensure that the venue has a venue manager who has the skills and knowledge necessary for the task, and that the organiser has carried out the required risk assessment effectively, and has assessed that the approach to following government guidance is reasonable.**

8. Life cycle events themselves that are not an integral part of religious services (e.g. weddings) are limited to 30 people. Small celebrations only are allowed following weddings (and by extension, for other s'machot), and so **30 is our limit for catered meals after s'machot assuming the venue has enough space to achieve the necessary social distancing, regardless of venue ownership.** (This is aligned with recent Government guidance stating that from 1st August, small wedding receptions will be able to take place - this means sit-down meals for no more than 30 people, subject to COVID-19 Secure guidance.)
9. US-owned venues which have enough space to achieve the necessary social distancing (based on 2m) – must limit all catered events to 30 for the time being, subject to the risk assessment and following all guidance related to such events etc. This reflects our interpretation of Government guidance at this stage, and will be kept under review as the release of lockdown continues.
10. KLBD Kashrut supervisors need to use any necessary protective equipment and follow all guidance regarding their own safety.
11. KLBD will attempt to keep this document updated and welcomes views from its licensees.

We look forward to working together with you to provide Kosher Catering once again in a Covid-secure way, meeting the guidance and keeping our community safe. Should there be serious or serial breaches of these Guidelines, we reserve the right to apply sanctions, including possible license suspension or withdrawal.

We appreciate the enormous challenges faced by our Caterers at this unprecedented time, and we will do our utmost to support you in the provision of Kosher Catering to the community once again.

Links to Government Guidance documents

This is non-exhaustive and the guidance changes frequently. It is up to you to ensure you are reviewing all the documents that you need to, and that you are consulting the most up to date versions using the gov.uk website.

- 1) *Legislation: The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/684/regulation/5/made>
- 2) *Places of worship:* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>
- 3) *COVID-19: Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships:* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships>
- 4) *Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): Restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services:* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>
- 5) *Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): Hotels and other guest accommodation:* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/hotels-and-other-guest-accommodation>

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- 6) COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>