



March 18, 2020

Statement

During these unprecedented times, we must prioritize the safety of our staff and customers across Wyoming. Restaurants and lodging properties need state and local government support during this crisis that will allow employees and owners to weather the storm and be ready to spring back into action quickly. Our communities need lodging properties and restaurants in a position to stimulate our local economies, help our employees get back to work, and generate tax revenue when this crisis subsides.

Guidance on Restaurant and Lodging Property Closures

- Local governments looking to close restaurants/lodging properties should rely on science to make any decisions regarding closures.
- If a local government determines that it needs to prohibit dine-in service for restaurants, it should allow restaurants to offer takeout, drive thru, and delivery.
- Lodging properties should be allowed to offer room service delivered to the exterior of the room only. (critical health care professionals are staying in some hotels across the state!)
- These operations involve minimal interactions between people (less person to person contact than someone going to a grocery store).
- Grocery stores are currently experiencing product shortages and significant crowds. Restaurants and hotels have significant food inventory that can help feed our communities and alleviate crowding at grocery stores.
- A regulation that completely closed restaurant and lodging operations will result in significant food waste that could be used to feed our communities.
- A document offering best practices for safe curbside, pick up and to go practices is forthcoming later today

Please contact Chris Brown, WLRA Executive Director with questions and concerns. 307.634.8816 x 207