

**ORDER OF THE DAWSON COUNTY CHAIR
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
IMPLEMENTING LOCAL EMERGENCY MEASURES
AUTHORIZING “TAKE OUT” OR “TO-GO” SALES
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp, following President Donald Trump’s national emergency declaration, declared a public health emergency in Georgia effective on March 14, 2020, to deploy all available resources for the mitigation and treatment of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, due to this worldwide epidemic, Dawson County, Georgia has experienced an event of critical significance locally as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Dawson County Code of Ordinances (“Code”), Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services), Article III (Emergency Management), Section 18-40 (Emergency management and response powers), following a declaration of emergency, whether made by the Governor or a declaration of local emergency, and during the continuance of such state of emergency, the Chairman of the Board is empowered to implement local emergency measures to protect life and property, including but not limited to, “suspending any law, code provisions or regulation prescribing the procedures for conduct of county business, or the orders, rules or regulations of any county agency if strict compliance with any ordinance, resolution, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster, provided that such suspension shall provide for the minimum deviation from the requirements under the circumstances and further provided that, when practicable, adverse effects resulting from such suspension shall be minimized;” (Code Sec. 18-40(a)(4)d.8.); and

WHEREAS, there exist emergency circumstances throughout the entirety of Dawson County requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Dawson County; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have a profound impact on the restaurant and hospitality industry, particularly restaurants that emphasize table service and related on-premises consumption of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, reasonable emergency measures may be instituted to mitigate such impact and to allow table service restaurants to engage in a “take out” or “to-go” model of food and beverage services (including alcoholic beverages).

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law, the following emergency measures are hereby **ORDERED**, as follows:

1. Under normal circumstances, in those instances where both on-premise consumption of alcoholic beverages and package alcohol sales are allowed, two separate permits are required.

2. Table service restaurants with existing and valid on-premise consumption licenses (e.g., alcohol by the drink license), and which do not already have a separate license permitting package sales, are hereby authorized and licensed to engage in “take out” or “to go” package sales of wine or malt beverages.
3. Any wine or malt beverage container that is sold as a “take out” or “to go” package sale shall be unopened. Growler fills shall be allowed.
4. Each order of alcohol sold as a “take out” or “to go” package sale shall be limited to six (6) malt beverages and two (2) bottles of wine and may only be sold in conjunction with a food order of equal or greater value than the alcohol order (i.e., no alcohol-only sales).
5. Local laws, Code provisions or regulations prescribing procedures for conduct of County business, including applicable provisions of the Dawson County Alcoholic Beverage Code, are hereby suspended and waived to the extent that such laws, Code provisions or regulations require applications to be filed or fees to be paid for the authorizations and licenses granted hereunder.
6. All applicable State laws, rules and regulations will continue to apply including but not limited to time and day restrictions, age restrictions, and distance restrictions related to the sale of alcoholic beverages.
7. This Order shall remain in effect for so long as the statewide declaration of emergency remains in effect or until this Order is terminated by the Chair of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners whichever shall occur first.

ENTERED at 9:30 a.m. on March 23, 2020.





Billy Thurmond, Chair
Dawson County Board of Commissioners