

Open Air and Outdoor Seating Requirements

The following four alternatives to indoor seating increase outdoor air flow to reduce risk, but do not replace other COVID-19 prevention requirements. Businesses using the alternatives are required to follow the industry-specific guidance documents, maintain table seating at least six feet part from neighboring table seating, and ensure customers and staff always wear cloth face coverings except when consuming food or beverages while seated. Any establishment adhering to the following requirements is deemed to be operating outdoors. Consequently, general outdoor requirements for the industry will apply

Note: Before adding or expanding open-air seating options, make sure your plans comply with local building codes, your local health jurisdiction, Liquor Cannabis Board, and Labor and Industries requirements and do not create a hazard. Adequate lighting for tasks such as cleaning and sanitizing must be provided.

Open Air Concept 1 & 2: Permeable Walls

Open air seating occurs in a structure with one or more permeable¹ exterior walls, allowing outside air to easily exchange within occupied seating areas and maintain carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels below 450ppm². CO₂ values are continuously monitored to ensure adequate exchange with outdoor air to adjust the seating and air flow as needed. Examples of permeable walls include open bay doors, multiple open windows, screened openings, open tent panels, ventilation holes in side panels, and uncovered lattice. Single windows and interior, entrance or emergency exit doors do not count toward permeability.

1. **Open Air Concept 1:** Seating area has at least one permeable wall and has two or more adjacent nonpermeable walls. Occupancy limited to 25% of capacity of the seating area as set by fire code (not including employees).
2. **Open Air Concept 2:** Structures have two non-adjacent permeable, unblocked walls that allow cross ventilation. Must have CO₂ monitoring in areas not within direct path of air.
3. **Open Air Concept 1 & 2:**
 - a. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) continuously monitored when the seating area is in use to ensure adequate exchange with outdoor air. If CO₂ levels exceed 450ppm for 15 minutes, patrons must be relocated to an open-air seating option that meets requirements.
 - b. Table size is limited to six people and tables must be spaced to allow nearest diners at neighboring table seating to be at least 6 feet apart.
 - c. Windows and doors must be opened 10 minutes prior to seating customers and remain open 10 minutes after customers leave.
 - d. CO₂ monitor must be in the seating area furthest away from the outdoor air source.

Open Air Concept 3: Unobstructed Outside Air

Seating occurs in unobstructed outdoor air. This includes seating on sidewalks, covered patios, courtyards, or similar outdoor areas. Outdoor seating may have an overhead cover, one wall, and no other impermeable barrier exceeding 4 feet in height within 10 feet of the seating area.

¹ A permeable wall is one that is made of a material or design which does not significantly impede natural air flow.

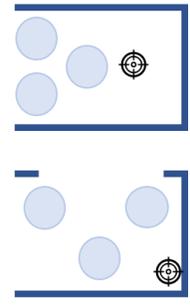
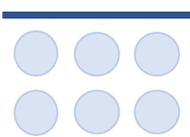
² CO₂ is used as a measure of air movement. Ambient CO₂ levels in outside air are about 400 ppm. People release CO₂ in their exhaled breath, so if air movement is enough to maintain levels below 450 ppm, this indicates that there is enough air flow to dilute respiratory droplets and particles. CO₂ concentrations at this level are not of direct concern.

Table size is limited to six people and tables must be spaced to allow nearest diners at neighboring table seating to be at least 6 feet apart.

Open Air Concept 4: Enclosed Structure for Small Group

Enclosed structures provide protection from the weather and include pods, igloos, and similar outdoor structures occupied by six or fewer people at a time. Structures must be completely aired out, cleaned, and disinfected before each use. Businesses using enclosed seating structures, such as pods/igloos must:

1. Limit to one seating group (six or fewer people) at a time.
2. Keep doors and windows open when the structure is occupied by staff.
3. Ensure the structure is aired out and sanitized between groups. Wait 10 minutes to air the structure out before cleaning and sanitizing.
4. Use ordering and service methods to reduce or limit employee time in the occupied pod; employees serving the pod must, at a minimum, use disposable masks for medium risk.

Schematic	Features	Type	Description
	Over three of the exterior walls are impermeable (entrance doors are <i>not</i> used to determine permeability)	Indoor	Closed structures obstruct air flow and confine air. Indoor seating capacity determined by Phase Status.
	One, two, or three walls are permeable with multiple, fully-opened windows or bay doors.	Open Air 1	Air circulation is decreased in the areas where the "closed" adjacent walls meet and will confine air. Requires CO₂ monitoring and maximum 25% capacity (for each structure).
	Seating area has two non-adjacent permeable walls with no barriers that exceed 4 feet in height within 10 feet of the seating area	Open Air 2	With at least 50% of the non-adjacent walls open, cross ventilation allows for droplets/aerosols to disperse. CO₂ monitoring not required for seating within air pathway.
	Covers, umbrellas, pergolas, or canopies; no sidewalls or other airflow barriers that exceed 4 feet in height within 10 feet on three or more sides of the seating area	Open Air 3	This type of structure allows open-air ventilation and rapid dispersal of droplets/aerosols. No required CO₂ monitoring.
	Enclosed, small-group structure such as igloo or pod	Open Air 4	This type of structure limits capacity to six or fewer people at a time with a replacement of air after each seating group. No required CO₂ monitoring.
	Indicates preferred location of CO ₂ monitor(s) in relations to seating.		