

LCRB Update - Policy Directive 20-13 - Temporary Expanded Service Area Authorization  
May 22, 2020

I am writing to announce [Policy Directive 20-13](#).

To support B.C.'s licensed establishments in safely reopening for business while respecting the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders and recommendations, this directive authorizes food primary, liquor primary and manufacturer licensees to temporarily expand their service area footprint **until October 31, 2020**. Please ensure that you review the new terms and conditions related to temporary expanded service area authorizations in the updated Terms and Conditions Handbook that applies to your licence here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/liquor-regulation/licensing/publications-resources/liquor-licensee-terms-and-conditions-handbooks>.

Increased service area footprints will allow licensees to decrease the density of patrons in their establishments and continue to serve patrons while complying with PHO orders and guidelines regarding physical distancing.

It is important to note that this directive will permit expanded service areas only, and will not increase overall occupancy, allowing the LCRB to expedite approvals while mitigating public safety risks and local government requirements. Licensees will still be subject to any PHO orders requiring reduced occupancy loads.

Eligible licensees may apply for an expedited **Temporary Expanded Service Area Authorization** by visiting the [online application portal](#).

To prevent further financial strain for those licensees most impacted by the pandemic, there will be no fees associated with temporary expansion applications.

Local governments will have two options for approval of temporary expansion authorizations for *liquor primary* and *manufacturer* licensees:

- Pre-approval to cover all liquor primary and manufacturer establishments within their jurisdiction who may apply for an expanded service area; or
- Review/approval of all individual applications of all liquor primary and manufacturer expansions prior to licensees submitting their completed application package to the LCRB.

If a local government chooses to review all individual requests for liquor primary and manufacturer applications, the LCRB will require those licensees to provide written approval from their local government with their application. Local government approval can be in the form of a letter or email and must include the following information:

1. Establishment name
2. Licence number
3. Establishment address
4. Local Government's confirmation of "no objection"
5. Permission to use publicly owned spaces, if applicable
6. Comments, if any.

**Please get in touch with your local government to determine their approach prior to submitting your application.**

Since food primary establishments are not generally required to obtain local government approval to expand their service areas, the LCRB will continue to process food primary requests for expanded service areas without requiring prior local government approval.

It's important to note that the LCRB will not require evidence from licensees ensuring they have appropriate permissions (including the use of publicly owned spaces like parking lots, sidewalks, etc.) from local governments, if their local government has selected the blanket-approval approach.

It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure they abide by all local bylaws and acquire any necessary permits. However, all applicants will be required to affirm through an online disclosure that they have met all local government requirements.

The LCRB is committed to continuing to support you through this challenging time. If you have any questions about this policy, please email [LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca). This authorization will be reviewed as the provincial health context changes.

The LCRB will also continue with its review of the existing permanent structural approval process, with the goal of streamlining and modernizing the process, making future applications more straightforward and aligned with today's business needs.