

# Tampa to allow restaurants, retail stores to expand outdoor capacity through 14-day pilot program

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The city has also set up eight “business recovery zones,” where it has closed streets to give businesses more space to expand their outdoor space.

NOLA LALEYE

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By **Brendan Ward** – Digital producer, Tampa Bay Business Journal  
a day ago

The city of Tampa has launched a new economic recovery plan that will allow restaurants and retail businesses to expand their outdoor presence without obtaining a permit. Under the **plan**, named the Lift Up Local Economy Recovery Plan, restaurants and retail stores can legally expand onto public rights-of-way and private parking areas without needing a city permit. A few examples the city gave were parklets and private sidewalks.

Tampa hopes the program will help local businesses expand their capacity, while still meeting Gov. **Ron DeSantis' latest order**, which allows restaurants and retail stores to open with capacity restrictions.

We want to lift up our local businesses through this recovery and empower them to re-open responsibly," Mayor **Jane Castor** said in a statement. "By giving our local business owners as many tools and as much space as possible to safely serve guests, we can work together to protect our workforce, our customers, and our community. Our small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and we need their help to safely and successfully re-open our city and get back to all the things we love--one step at a time."

The city has also set up eight "street activation zones," where it has closed streets to give businesses more space to expand their outdoor space.

Those zones, as well as their closure times, can be seen below:

Neighborhood	Street	From	To	Road Closure Hours	La Clo
Downtown	Twiggs St	Tampa St	Franklin St	24/7	F
Downtown	Franklin St	Madison	Polk	24/7	F
Hyde Park	Swann Ave/Parklet*	Oregon Ave	Rome Ave	24/7	N
Hyde Park Village	S. Dakota Ave/W.Snow	Swann Ave	S. Rome Ave	24/7	F
Ybor City	7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	15 <sup>th</sup> Street	21 <sup>th</sup> Street	24/7	F
Tampa Heights	Franklin St	Kay St	Palm Ave	24/7	F
West River	Grand Central Ave	Kennedy	Hyde Park Ave	24/7	F
SOHO	South Howard	Morrison Ave	Bristol Ave	5pm -10 pm**	F

## Enlarge

These are the eight business recovery zones created by the Lift Up Local recovery plan.  
CITY OF TAMPA

Under the program, restaurants will be under certain restrictions including:

- Limiting indoor capacity to 25 percent
- Spacing seating at least 6 feet apart
- Using disposable paper menus
- Providing hand washing stations for customers and employees.
- Requiring facial coverings must be worn by “front of house” employees who interact with customers
- Limiting contact with dining guests by reducing the number of visits wait staff makes to each table

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The city is also strongly encouraging restaurants to test their employees and implement contactless ordering and payment, though neither is required.

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