



BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

COVID-19: BUSINESS REOPENING ASSISTANCE

Temporary Closure of Private Parking Lot(s) and Downtown Public Streets/Sidewalks

Given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local businesses, the City of Bakersfield has identified a process to help businesses comply with the new “social distancing” requirements mandated by the State as part of the plan to reopen. The process will provide businesses an opportunity to apply for a permit to temporarily close some private parking lots throughout the City, or some public streets/sidewalks in the Downtown area where parking lots are limited. This would allow the businesses to then set up outdoor seating and/or vending areas each day.

The City’s existing ["Special Event Permit" process](#) allows local businesses to apply for short-term temporary closures of streets/sidewalks, subject to criteria listed in the Municipal Code and as listed in the application. The special event process (SEP) is designed to ensure that the event is successful while taking into consideration the protection of the public’s health and safety.

In light of the Emergency Declaration issued by the City of Bakersfield on March 19, 2020, the City has temporarily amended the SEP to include a “COVID-19 Special Event Permit”, which will include the closure of streets, sidewalks and parking lots located on private property, for the purpose of using as dining and/or vending space. The new COVID-19 SEP process will be available through the duration of the City’s local Emergency Declaration; and has added the temporary closures to the list of allowable Events, subject to the submittal of the information and adherence to the safety criteria as listed below.

Any local business interested in pursuing a “COVID-19 Special Event Permit” to allow temporary closure of a parking lot or street/sidewalk during the Emergency Declaration is invited to submit the application as follows:

Steps to Obtain a “COVID-19 Special Event Permit”

1. Complete the ["Special Event Permit Application"](#) with the additional information, as listed below in Table 1. The application can be completed online, by accessing the City’s website: https://bakersfieldcity.us/howdoi/apply/special_events_n_film_permits.htm

NOTE: It is recommended that businesses meet with staff at the Development Services Department (parking lots) or Public Works Department (street/sidewalks) early and as they are designing the site plan. Staff is available to provide feedback on appropriate health and safety requirements, ADA requirements, etc.

2. Submit the completed application, supplemental information, and fee to the City of Bakersfield.
3. Obtain special event permit approval and Site Inspection from the appropriate City Department(s).

Table 1. "COVID-19 Special Event Permit" Supplemental Application Information (Include with Application)

General Information Section:
1. Under Event Name, list the Business Name that will be using the space.
2. List existing indoor square footage and proposed outdoor square footage.
Event Description Section:
1. List number of parking spaces and/or portion of street/sidewalk proposed to be closed.
2. List method and materials for blocking parking spaces, sidewalk, or street (See Table 2 for options)
Insurance Requirements Section:
1. Note: The City will review each application to determine appropriate insurance and liability requirements.
General Description of Event Section:
1. Below the listed options, write in: "COVID-19 SEP for parking lot" or "COVID-19 SEP for public street/sidewalk"
Event Site Plan Information Section: <i>Ensure that the site plan also illustrates the following:</i>
1. The project will adhere to all Health & Safety Criteria, as listed in Table 2.
2. Which parking spaces, streets, and/or sidewalks will be blocked.
3. Location of any tables, chairs, walk-aisles and other temporary materials (awnings, tents, electrical, etc.)
4. Demonstrate compliance with all applicable ADA requirements; including but not limited to: ADA accessible dining table(s), slope and cross slope max 2% in any direction, clear path of travel to ADA accessible features, etc.
5. Identify restroom facilities that will be available to patrons.
6. Demonstrate there will be continued circulation within Parking lot.
Event Site Services Section:
1. Describe plan for maintenance/cleaning of the closed area.
Required Documents Section:
1. For Parking Lots, written authorization from property owner and management company (if applicable).
2. California Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) authorization (if business permitted by ABC)
3. Kern County Health Department authorization (if business permitted by the County)
4. Copy of any other COVID-10 related "Reopening Plan and/or permit" from the State (if applicable)

Table 2. Health & Safety Criteria

Parking Lots:	Public Streets & Sidewalks
1. Closure shall be limited to up to 50% of the total number of required parking spaces.	1. Street closure shall be limited to a maximum of half streets within the Downtown area only.
2. Closure shall occur between the hours of 10am and 10pm; with all materials removed by 10pm each day.	2. Closure shall occur between the hours of 10am and 10pm; with all materials removed by 10pm each day.
3. Parking spaces shall be barricaded at the applicant's cost, using mobile material approved by the Public Works Director and Fire Prevention Director. (Mobile fencing without lock, no k-rail).	3. Streets shall be barricaded at the applicant's cost, using mobile material approved by the Public Works Director and Fire Prevention Director, and which also meets MUTCD requirements. (mobile fencing without lock, no k-rail)
4. No blocking of ADA Parking stalls or paths	4. For half-street, closure materials shall be located at intersections and not at mid-block locations.
5. No blocking of Emergency and/or Service Truck access (hydrants, fire, trash, deliveries, etc.)	5. No closure of arterial and collector streets, local streets only, subject to City approval.
6. No blocking ingress/egress points to public streets.	7. No blocking of ADA Parking stalls or paths
7. No amplified music in parking area	9. No blocking of Emergency and/or Service Truck access (hydrants, fire, trash, deliveries, etc.)
	10. No blocking ingress/egress points to public streets.
	11. No amplified music in sidewalk/street area