



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** May 28, 2020

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### **City of Burlington Releases COVID-19 Permitting Processes for Restaurant and Fitness Businesses to operate outdoors**

BURLINGTON, NC— During the May 19, 2020 City Council Meeting, city staff was directed to implement a process that allows for restaurants to extend dining capacity outdoors. Shortly thereafter, city staff received input from the fitness business community regarding holding fitness classes outside. Led by Peter Bishop, Economic Development Director, the city responded by creating three (3) COVID-19-specific application processes to facilitate operation of business outdoors on private property, the public right-of-way, and public greenspaces and parks. “We’re poised to work closely with restaurants and fitness studios to permit additional capacity quickly,” stated Peter Bishop, City of Burlington Economic Development Director. “We all want to get businesses back on solid ground and every seat helps.”

All three (3) applications are now available online at [www.BurlingtonNC.gov/COVID19](http://www.BurlingtonNC.gov/COVID19):

1) **COVID-19 Temporary Use Permit:** allows restaurants and fitness studios to apply to use a portion of their parking lot, on private property, to provide additional seating and classroom space.

**CONTACT:** Conrad Olmedo, Principal Planner, 336-513-5415 or by email at [colmedo@burlingtonnc.gov](mailto:colmedo@burlingtonnc.gov).

2) **COVID-19 Outdoor Dining Permit:** allows restaurants to apply to use a portion of public property (excluding streets), to provide additional seating.

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3) **COVID-19 Outdoor Fitness Use Permit:** allows fitness studios to apply to use a portion of publicly owned green spaces and parks to provide additional classroom space.

**CONTACT:** Emily Crowley, Recreation Supervisor, 336-229-3149 or by email [ecrowley@burlingtonnc.gov](mailto:ecrowley@burlingtonnc.gov).

The COVID-19 applications are temporary and will expire after thirty (30) days after the end of related capacity restrictions. They will be processed at no charge, be reviewed at the city staff level, and be processed as expeditiously as possible. COVID-19 permits will remain in compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order 141. For applicants, it is important to remember to include all submittal requirements, not limited to but including: proof of property owner approval, certificate of liability insurance, and a sketch plan.

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Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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