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Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Releases Virginia Restaurant Promise to Ensure Employee and Guest Safety

Richmond, Va. – May 22, 2020 – The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA) has partnered with health departments and VRLTA member restaurants to develop ***The Virginia Restaurant Promise***, a set of commitments for both employees and customers, designed to give employees and patrons peace of mind when dining out. VRLTA has developed posters for restaurants to download and post in their establishments (download here: [8.5" x 11"](#), [11" x 17"](#), [22" x 28"](#)).

By supporting the effort, participating restaurants promise to take increased safety and sanitation measures, including:

- Adhering to the safest food handling and sanitation practices,
- Ensuring employees pass a wellness check prior to working, and that customer-facing employees wear face coverings,
- Following physical distancing and use-of-space guidelines, and
- Increasing cleaning and sanitizing efforts, and offering single-use items where possible.

In return, customers promise to:

- Remain home if sick or recently exposed to someone sick,
- Use hand sanitizing stations upon entering the restaurant, and
- Maintain physical distancing.

“Virginia restaurants have always been subject to high standards when it comes to cleanliness and safety. The new Virginia Restaurant Promise gives consumers a way to easily see and understand that their favorite restaurant is adhering to even higher standards related to COVID-19,” shared Eric Terry, President of VRLTA. “Our goal is to ensure that Virginia diners can safely enjoy dining out again, support these local businesses, and connect again over a good meal.”

For more information, visit <https://www.virginiaisforrestaurantlovers.com/covid-19-info/restaurant-promise>.

About Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA)

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association is the only unified voice for the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. Inquiries about membership and VRLTA services should be directed to VRLTA at (804) 288-3065 or VRLTA.org.

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VIRGINIA RESTAURANT PROMISE

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA), Virginia health officials, and restaurants have partnered to develop *The Virginia Restaurant Promise*, a set of commitments to employees and customers. To ensure everyone's safety as we welcome you back into our restaurant, we ask that we make the following promises to each other.

OUR RESTAURANT'S PROMISE TO YOU - Phase 1:

- We will lead in safe sanitation practices. All team members are trained in safe food handling and sanitation, and we will have a certified manager on every shift.
- All Team members will pass a wellness check before they are allowed to work prior to any shift. Sick employees will be prohibited in the workplace.
- Customer-facing employees will wear masks, as required by VDH.
- All seating options will comply with state-mandated physical distancing guidelines, including a minimum of six feet between parties. Parties of 10+ patrons are prohibited. Bars may be utilized to provide service; no seating at the bar itself will be permitted.
- Appropriate physical distancing will be maintained inside/outside of the establishment. If space does not allow, customers will be asked to wait in their cars or other off-premise areas.
- Sanitizing stations will be available to customers at points of entry and exit.
- We will clean and sanitize all common areas regularly, using CDC guidelines, and deep clean/sanitize our facilities every day. Tables and chairs will be cleaned and sanitized after every use. Place settings, menus, utensils, and condiments will either be single-use or cleaned and sanitized after every use. There will be no self-service of food except beverages.

YOUR PROMISE TO US:

- If you have been exposed recently or have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, or shortness of breath), use our contactless delivery options and do not enter our restaurant.
- You will use the hand sanitizer or hand washing station every time you enter.
- You will always practice Virginia state-mandated physical distancing guidelines.
- If you have underlying health conditions or are otherwise concerned, use our curbside or delivery options.
- If you have any questions, ask for a manager, who will be happy to assist you.

For more information, visit [virginiaisforrestaurantlovers.com](https://www.virginiaisforrestaurantlovers.com)

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