



To: Glenbert Croes, Danguillaume Oduber and Crisis Team,

March 19, 2021

The Aruba Food & Beverage Association would like to formally request the Government of Aruba to revoke the new regulations regarding the amount of customers (two people max) allowed to sit together at restaurant tables.

While it is a known fact that Aruba has experienced unprecedented spikes in cases and new variations of the virus, it needs to be addressed that restaurants are not to blame for the increase in cases, especially since most restaurants worked closely with DVG in applying the operational protocols. For this reason it feels completely unjust to be penalized with such measures. We believe strongly that control in areas where Covid safety regulations are not being followed, will lead to results, not limiting those who are already following the GOA protocol. Therefore all restaurants ***anywhere on the island***, that follow DVG protocol, should be able to sit guests inside up to 4 (not counting children 12 and under) and outside 6 (not counting children 12 and under)

Sitting only two guests per table will only further limit the seating capacity for restaurants. It is very likely that due to this measure restaurants will go out of business.

Also this new measurement will have a **negative impact on tourism**. Already restaurant operators receive questions and/or cancellations as tourists are afraid they cannot sit at the same table with their teenage children. Websites, such as [arubacovid19.org](http://arubacovid19.org) are not up to date.

With measures like this, dining out will become a thing of the past—families will remain home-jeopardizing hundreds of jobs in the F&B industry as these measures are going to have a devastating impact on our ability to operate our businesses.

AF&BA collectively put this forward for consideration: **permission to sit four guests (over the age of 12) indoors at a table and six guests (over the age of 12) at one table outdoors** with protective measures.

AF&BA again offers to work closely together with the government and the Management team to assist in solving / preventing issues that may arise in the future related to measurements that have consequence in regards to the food and beverage industry on the island.

Sincerely,

Aruba Food & Beverage Associa