

# Governor to allow indoor restaurant dining

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COLUMBIA — Restaurants throughout South Carolina can soon reopen with limited, indoor dining service, as Gov. Henry McMaster continues to lift coronavirus-related restrictions and promises to soon discuss reopening other businesses.

Starting Monday, the governor said restaurants can open for indoor dining as long as they keep patrons to 50 percent occupancy, place tables 6 to 8 feet apart and follow stringent cleaning and sanitizing guidelines, like keeping hand sanitizer at entrances and removing previously shared condiments from tables.

"A lot of iconic restaurants have actually gone out of business, and the whole state regrets that," the governor said Friday, in announcing what he calls "phase two" of a process to get dining rooms throughout the state back open.

This week, restaurants were allowed to open for limited outdoor dining. Next

week, McMaster said he will likely address "close-contact" businesses like hair and nail salons, which have been closed for weeks to help slow the spread.

McMaster also lifted all remaining restrictions on boating on the state's waterways, meaning boaters can

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now stop at sandbars instead of being required to keep moving.

"The virus is still here, people are still vulnerable, but we are lifting that restriction," McMaster said of the boating provision.

As the governor's committee studying how to reopen South

Carolina passed around ideas Thursday on how to reopen beauty salons, amusement parks, gyms, swimming pools and large venues typically used for weddings, public health officials have pledged to more than triple the number of coronavirus tests performed in the state over the next two months.