

Checklist: Deploying 5G and network security for restaurants

From quick-service franchises and drive-thrus to fine dining venues and multi-location chains, restaurants depend more than ever on secure, reliable connectivity. Whether for point-of-sale (POS) transactions, online orders, customer Wi-Fi, digital menu boards, or mobile delivery apps, 5G and LTE solutions help restaurants stay competitive and connected across front-of-house, back-of-house, and off-site operations.

Use the following questions to guide your connectivity strategy and identify potential gaps when deploying cellular connectivity solutions for restaurants.

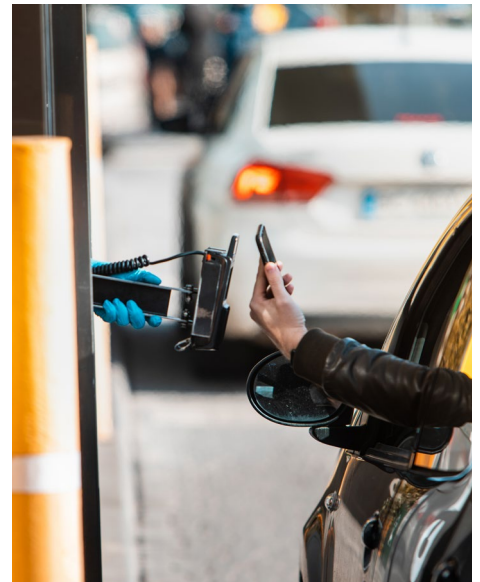
Key questions to consider

- What is the core business objective for implementing 5G or LTE (e.g., improve order throughput, reduce POS downtime, expand off-site services)?
- What metrics will define success for this deployment (e.g., safety and security, reduction in service interruptions, faster order processing, higher delivery efficiency)?
- How will a Wireless WAN solution support high-bandwidth and low-latency demands from multiple digital systems operating simultaneously?
- What steps are needed to ensure strong security for guest Wi-Fi, POS data, customer transactions, inventory management, and connected kitchen equipment?
- Is the IT team leading deployment decisions, or are operations or franchise leadership more involved?
- How will IT manage and monitor cellular endpoints at each restaurant location, including networking, software, AI troubleshooting, and firmware updates?
- Do you have the resources to send IT staff on-site to troubleshoot issues at each location, or do you need a solution with remote management capabilities?
- What is the expected timeline for deployment across all sites, including new buildouts or remodels?
- How will you scale network and data security as you add more digital capabilities (e.g., kiosks, mobile apps, virtual brands)?



Have you gathered input?

Ensure input is collected from all relevant stakeholders (IT, security, operations, franchisees, and marketing) to support a successful rollout and long-term adoption.



Quick check:

Where does your restaurant business stand?

Front- and back-of-house

Seeking solution

Solution in place

IoT support for kitchen display systems (KDS)

Secure, reliable Wi-Fi with zero trust architecture for guests and mobile ordering devices

Separate network for non-POS traffic

Surveillance and remote security monitoring

Wireless failover from wired WAN links

Drive-thru and pickup lanes

Seeking solution

Solution in place

Secure network coverage for workers and outdoor POS

Ability to monitor video footage and real-time analytics

Separate networks for digital menu boards and kiosks

Delivery and off-site services

Seeking solution

Solution in place

Reliable connectivity for tracking location of delivery drivers

Secure access for remote order management

Always-on connectivity for mobile ordering tablets
