

Guidelines for operating Golf Courses during Covid-19

May 11, 2020

Introduction

Numerous Parks, Forestry and Recreation programs and services have been altered or suspended as part of the City's effort to curtail the spread of Covid-19. This document addresses service resumption for public golf courses as they move towards re-opening.

Key Dates

TBD per announcements

Purpose:

To provide operational guidance on the reopening of access to 5 public golf courses where city staff maintain the asset and third party operators manage bookings, lessons, course play, cart rentals and concessions.

Infection prevention and control measures:

The following mitigation guidelines will help reduce the risk of respiratory infections, including COVID-19.

Guidelines: Before Arrival

Golfers must self-screen themselves to limit the introduction of infection:

- Prior to attending a golf course, every golfer must do the [self-assessment for COVID-19](#) on the Ontario Ministry of Health website and if they do not pass the assessment they should not attend the golf course until they pass the assessment and do not have signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Golfers can visit the [City's website](#) to determine if further care is required and learn about assessment centres.
- All golf participants should be aware of signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing

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- Muscle aches
- Tiredness
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell
- Your risk of severe disease may be higher if you have a weakened immune system. This may be the case for:
 - Seniors
 - People with chronic disease such as diabetes, cancer, heart, renal or chronic lung disease
- The World Health Organization advises that symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 10 to 14 days after contracting COVID-19.

Entrance Restrictions:

- Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or has had close contact with a confirmed case cannot enter a golf course or golf facility.
- Access to the golf course is for golfers only. No events, tournaments, camps or programs.
- Professional lessons and clinics will be limited to a maximum of 4 patrons per session.
- Under advisement of Medical Officer of Health and Toronto Public Health, the City strongly encourages all Clients 70+, and or with weak immune systems remain home.

Tee Time Reservations:

- Tee times must be reserved in advance online at www.toronto.ca/golf or via telephone through the course Pro Shop and contact information for all players must be provided.
- Walk on players will not be permitted.
- Contactless payments only will be accepted in the form of credit or debit card.
- The first available tee time will be at 7:00 a.m. If you miss your reserved tee time, you will not be permitted to play.
- Tee times spacing in 12 minute intervals to allow for physical distancing.
- Course Marshalls will be present to enforce pace of play in order to avoid slow play.
- Golfers are asked to arrive **NO MORE THAN 20 MINUTES** prior to their tee time and to leave the facility immediately after their round. We encourage you

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- o to be proactive and responsible for bringing your own hand sanitizer, sunscreen, water or other personal items for use while golfing.
- o All tee times impacted by frost delay will be cancelled.

Guidelines: During Golfing

Reduce the risk of transmission during activities:

- o Stay at home when you are ill.
 - The following screening questionnaire for staff is available on the Toronto COVID-19 site under Workplaces: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/95f0-Survey-Screening-poster-TPH.pdf>
- o Practice [physical distancing](#) and maintain a two metre (six feet) distance from others when at the golf course.
- o Respect any provincial Emergency Orders that prohibit social gatherings of a certain size, including when at a golf course.

Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:

- o Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- o If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- o Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue. Immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands.
- o If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm.
- o Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- o Players may wear masks at their own discretion.

Power Carts, Pull Carts and Rentals:

- o Power carts and pull carts are available for rental on a first come first serve basis and will be cleaned and sanitized after every use.
- o Power carts are limited to single rider unless players are residing in the same household.
- o Pull carts and clubs are available for rental on a first come first serve basis and will be sanitized after each use.
- o It is recommended that you bring your own clubs and pull carts if possible.
- o Walking is encouraged.

Ensure that people who become ill with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while attending a golf course sent home to self-isolate:

- People who become ill while at the golf course should go home immediately, and should review the City of Toronto [website](#) for more information about COVID-19.
- If a golf player tests positive for COVID-19, their local Public Health Unit (Toronto Public Health for Toronto residents) will follow-up with close contacts who may include other golf players. Other golf players who came in close contact with the infected player may be required to self-isolate.

Guidelines: Course and Facility

Facility Information:

- Clubhouse facilities (locker rooms, lounge, patios and club storage) will be closed except for washroom and Pro Shop access. Pro Shop entry limited to maximum 2 patrons at one time.
- People should only enter facility to pay or to use the washroom.
- Food and beverage only available on course. Restaurant and dining areas are closed.
- Putting Greens are available, however, hitting nets will remain closed.
- Bulk scorecards and pencils will be removed and provided upon request at the starter hut.

Course Information:

- A starter will be stationed at the starter hut to direct players and start groups off the first tee and to ensure spacing of players.
- Marshalls will be present to enforce pace of play.
- Bunker rakes, garbage can lids, sand bottles, ball washers and towels have been removed and will not be available.
- Players are asked to not touch playing partners clubs or ball during the course of play. This includes no high five's, fist bumps or handshakes, sharing of equipment and/or food/beverages.
- Play preferred lies in sand traps and smooth sand with your foot before exiting the bunker.
- Flagsticks must remain in place and are NOT to be touched. Cups fillers will be placed inside the cup to prevent the ball from going to the bottom of the hole. If your ball hits the filler, consider it to have been holed.

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- Food and beverage service limited to cart service only from 9:00 a.m. to dusk and restricted to contactless payment only. Only pre-packaged food and beverage items to be sold. Contactless payments only will be accepted in the form of credit or debit card.
- Water bottle filling stations are closed and patrons are asked to either bring their own pre-filled water bottles or purchase from the food and beverage cart service.
- Golfers are asked to leave immediately after completion of their round.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Requirements:

- Washroom facilities are available and will be cleaned two times per day.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect high traffic areas, and frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g. entrances/exits, pay terminals, waste containers, and common areas, etc.).
- Review [Public Health Ontario's Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings document](#).

Required Signage:

- Post the [physical distancing poster](#) and [how to protect yourself poster](#) at all golf course and facility entrances, and throughout the course at common areas.
 - The following poster can be used for golfers and posted at entrances: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/95ea-Screening-poster-retail-entrance-TPH.pdf>