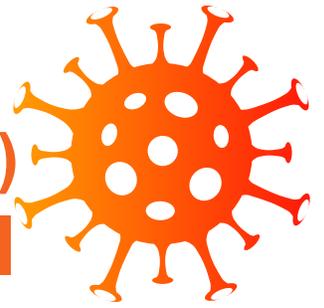


# GUIDELINES FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



## INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOUR GOLF FACILITY

The average golf course offers

# 150 acres

of open land space that can provide a vital recreational opportunity during this difficult time.



### GCSAA COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR GOLF COURSES

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has affected health and daily lives around the world. Local, state and federal agencies have enacted numerous measures to stem the spread of the disease. While many golf courses have provided an outdoor recreational refuge for many, they are not immune from mandated closures or from having the virus spread among their staff or patrons.

GCSAA has compiled tactics and information to help your facility navigate best practices for dealing with the epidemic while keeping your course an outdoor option for your community.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

# 1

### FIRST STEPS IN ANY CRISIS

**Prepare** – Know your operations, your systems and your processes. Formulate a plan of action that is clear and allows all your employees to abide by the standards. Having this plan in place lets you act quickly and address any questions from customers, media or lawmakers with accuracy.

**Review** – Gather your key team members together to make sure everyone is on the same page, including your golf professional and general manager. Work to establish to keep everyone updated and informed throughout the process.

**Connect** – Whether you are letting golfers know the status of your operation or answering media inquiries, now is a great time to make connections, even if they aren't in person. Introduce yourself via email, social media or other outlets to let them know you are here for them and can offer a bright spot in an otherwise stressful time. Distribute any updates in a timely and concise manner and identifying a spokesperson for your facility can make sure a consistent message is shared. GCSAA has many resources to help you with public and media relations. [www.gcsaa.org/pandemic](http://www.gcsaa.org/pandemic)

**Develop** – Organize a reference file (physical or virtual) for dealing with the crisis. It can be clearing house for you and your staff in dealing with the issues you are facing in the "new normal." In addition, it's a good way to have easy access to basic information about your operation that you can share with others like the basic facts about course, the measures you are taking to comply with virus-related recommendations, and how you are using best management practices when normal operations resume. GCSAA has established templates to assist you. [www.gcsaa.org/pandemic](http://www.gcsaa.org/pandemic)



# 2

### MAKING RISK LESS RISKY

Identify any risks to your operation that may be a result of current events. Once you identify risks, you can work with your key-decision makers to develop a plan to identify the likelihood of each risk factor and apply possible solutions. Some of the issues you may face are:

- Loss of revenue due to mandated closures or reduction in golfers
- Increased expenses in order to comply with new restrictions and rules
- Damage to the golf course due to reduced maintenance
- Disruption with supply chains
- Staff not being paid
- Staff getting sick in the epidemic



While GCSAA has transitioned to remote operations during the pandemic, all GCSAA services are still available.

Call 800-472-7878 or email [mbrhelp@gcsaa.org](mailto:mbrhelp@gcsaa.org) for general assistance, or visit [www.gcsaa.org/](http://www.gcsaa.org/) contact to reach out directly to a staff member.

# 3

## TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES NOW

If you are still operating, you can take some of the following steps that golf courses around the country are implementing to halt the spread of the virus:

- Maintain 6 ft social distancing at all times
- Increase communication with your team. Utilize apps such as WhatsApp or GroupMe
- Adjusting break/lunch times to limit contact between employees
- Consider setting up seating areas outside for employees to take breaks and lunch
- Eliminating time clocks or assigning management/one individual the responsibility of punching employees in/out
- Hold team meetings outside or in the equipment maintenance area
- Supply gloves to your team
- Assigning staff pieces of equipment/carts to eliminate sharing between employees
- Place hand sanitizer throughout the maintenance area
- Sanitizing touchable surfaces/carts/equipment/bathrooms/breakrooms daily (or multiple times a day)
- Sanitize all hand tools
- Adjusting management practices (reducing mowing, cultural practices, etc.)
- Increasing the time between tee times
- Removing all touchable surfaces (flagsticks, bunker rakes, water coolers, ball washers, etc.)
- If you leave the flagstick in raise the cup 1", turn the cup upside down, use something to fill the cup to raise the bottom of the cup
- Enforcing one golfer per cart policy
- Providing golfers with sanitizing wipes/bottles if available
- Sanitizing golf carts after each round
- Altering range practices to comply with social distancing



# 4

## GOLF IS IN THIS TOGETHER

With the current practice of social distancing, it can seem like you are all alone at your course. However your GCSAA family and the greater golf community are here for you.



### Reach out to other superintendents –

Find out how they are facing challenges, share resources if supplies are running low and have a united front in the community. If one course closes, could you have a reciprocal relationship with them? Could their laid off employees fill in for yours who may be sick or home with family? Now is the time to show the strength and camaraderie of the golf industry,

**Stay in touch with your chapter –** While chapter meetings are on hold as large gatherings are banned, check in with your chapter. See how you can other members in need or how they can assist you.

**GCSAA has myriad resources to help you –** GCSAA is here and fully operational to help you through the crisis. Whether you are taking advantage of our catalogue of free online webinars, calling your local field staff representative to discuss issues in your region or keeping up to date on the state of industry. GCSAA is still here for you.

**10 WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM INFECTION**

- Wash your hands regularly and carefully
- Avoid touching your own face
- Put on gloves if necessary
- Do not touch mucous with your fingers
- Avoid shaking hands and hugging people
- Press elevator buttons with your knuckle
- Avoid busy places and events
- Keep distance from who infected
- Sneeze and cough into tissues
- Dispose of used tissues quickly

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CDC:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

OSHA:  
<https://www.osha.gov/>

World Health Organization:  
<https://www.who.int/>

GCSAA COVID-19:  
[gcsaa.org/pandemic](https://gcsaa.org/pandemic)