

Responsible RestartOhio

Golf Course and Miniature Golf Operators



Golf Course Operators

Mandatory

Post information throughout the golf course property to remind golfers and customers to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages should include information about:

- Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Using social distancing and maintaining 6-feet or more between individuals in all areas.
- Not gathering in groups.
- Golfers should not loiter.
- Wearing a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting in close proximity to other golfers, practicing good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.

Maintain public restrooms and locker rooms to lower risk of spread of virus.

- Disable, or mark every other or every third locker for non-use to enforce six-foot social distancing requirement. Facilities where lockers are assigned to members are not required to disable lockers but must enforce social distancing requirement.
- Remove any casual seating other than benches by lockers as necessary.
- Clean and disinfect public areas and restrooms every two hours using EPA-registered disinfectants, particularly on high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs and light switches.
- If independent showers are available and used, they must be attended and sanitized between each use.
- Disable or close-off communal style showers except for rinsing before and after any pool activity.
- Make sure supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands are fully stocked every time the bathroom is cleaned.
- Disable or close-off steam rooms and saunas.
- If towels are provided, they are to be stored in covered, sanitized containers that are clearly delineated clean versus soiled. Appropriate temperatures are to be used when washing and drying towels to ensure sanitation (hot water for washing, ensure they are completely dried). Employees handling towels must wear gloves and face covering.
- Restroom facilities should limit the number of users at any one time based on the facility size current social distancing guidelines. These facilities should be cleaned/sanitized per CDC recommended protocol along with established restroom cleaning schedules

Recommended Best Practices

Maintain public restrooms and locker rooms to lower risk of spread of virus.

- Post a cleaning schedule at each location
- Install touch-free entry points at restrooms and other facilities.
- Install touchless sensors on sinks and hand dryers.

Golf Course Operators cont.

Mandatory

Closures, modifications and limitations:

- In accordance with current orders, close any non-essential areas where people could potentially congregate.
- Shotgun starts are permitted as long as social distancing can be maintained.
- All food service must be run in accordance with current orders and guidelines for such establishments. All self-service food stations should be closed or only operated by employees in accordance with the guidance outlined in Responsible Restart Ohio for restaurants and bars.
- Golfers shall be offered flexibility related to cart use, including the option to walk or ride in a cart alone.
- Remove common touchable surfaces (water coolers, bunker rakes, ball washers, etc.).
- Modifications should be made so the flagstick does not need to be removed to retrieve the ball. For example, use a foam noodle stopping approximately 1 inch below the green surface. The ball goes into the cup and is lifted using the putter head. The flagstick remains lodged in the cup through the hole in the noodle.

Follow all appropriate guidance for customer interaction, retail sales and equipment rentals.

- Alter check-in/pay practices to meet six-foot social distancing guidelines.
- Install barriers and protective shields where needed to safely distance staff and customers.
- Post a revised occupancy number in retail or rental areas in accordance with any current order to minimize crowding where necessary.
- Mark floors inside buildings for six feet standing areas or one-way traffic.
- Clean and disinfect high-use areas like door handles, keypads, counter tops, etc. after each use or at a minimum of every two hours.
- Disinfect all rental equipment, including golf carts, after each use, using EPA-registered disinfectants.
- Arrange any seating areas, tables, chairs, etc. (indoors and out) at safe distances from each other. If safe distances are not achievable, or regular sanitizing of these areas is not possible, barricade or remove seating areas.
- Review and follow all guidance for retail operations as provided in Responsible Restart Ohio for Retail Services.
- Alter practices for accommodating leagues and outings to meet social distancing and large gathering guidelines.

Maintaining Distance in outdoor spaces

- In areas of concern, mark six-foot spacers to help customers visualize safe distancing.
- In areas with a lot of cross traffic, direct pedestrian traffic to enter/exit these locations in specific ways or indicate one-way traffic wherever possible.
- Alter cart pick-up/drop-off, driving range and putting green practices to comply with social distancing.

Be as flexible as possible with staff attendance and sick-leave policies. Remind staff to stay at home if they are sick. Isolate and send home anyone who exhibits fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment, including assessing for symptoms and taking your temperature with a thermometer and monitoring for fever. Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, and two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.

Recommended Best Practices

Closures, modifications and limitations:

- Facilities may determine if masks are required to enter common spaces or may be made available to guests entering common spaces based on the facility.
- Increase time between tee times
- Scoring must be recorded digitally, and courses should not use scoreboards to limit congregation among spectators and players.

Follow all appropriate guidance for customer interaction, retail sales and equipment rentals.

- Regularly provide customers with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and related business procedures and policies. Communicate the importance of practicing preventive actions.
- Where available, use online solutions for reservations, waivers or payment.
- Install touch-free entry points to buildings where possible.
- Create self-sanitizing stations by making hand sanitizer, soap, and water, or effective disinfectant available to the public at or near the entrance of facilities and at any locations where people have direct interactions and near high-touch surfaces.

Be as flexible as possible with staff attendance and sick-leave policies. Remind staff to stay at home if they are sick. Isolate and send home anyone who exhibits fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

- Encourage 3rd-party delivery staff to wait outside or in non-congested areas practicing social distancing guidelines. Encourage 3rd-party delivery staff to wear face coverings.
- Educate on proper use, disposal, and maintenance of face coverings. Enhance education on proper use of gloves, per code

Mandatory

Golf Course Operators cont.

- Require employees to perform daily symptom assessments* and require them to stay home if sick.
- Businesses must require all employees to wear facial coverings, except for one of the following reasons:
 - Facial coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation
 - Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards
 - Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons
 - Facial coverings are in violation of the business' documented safety policies
 - Facial coverings are not required when the employee volunteer works alone in an assigned work area
 - There is a functional (practical) reason for an employee/volunteer not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

(Businesses must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.)

- Employee vehicles, equipment, break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas must be cleaned and disinfected after every use.
- Implement staggered employee entry, working in assigned teams, varied arrival and departure and staggered breaks to avoid interaction or grouping among staff.

Recommended Best Practices

- Health checks may include temperature assessments, questionnaires, employee self-checks, screening app or other tools. Update files with log of "health checks."
- Conduct telephone symptom assessment for employees who were ill and planning to return to work.
- As employee rehiring begins, consider virtual interviewing and on-boarding when possible.
- Reinforce education per current food safety code about when to wash hands. Post health department handwashing posters at sinks and stations. Set times for periodic handwashing.
- Regularly provide staff with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and related business procedures and policies. Communicate the importance of practicing preventive actions.

Golfers

- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Follow instructions and signs when checking in at the club house, ordering food, beverages, etc.
- Wait until called to the first tee box or until the group ahead of you has clearly left the tee.
- Use social distancing and maintain at least six feet between individuals in all areas including on tees and greens.
- Do not gather in groups of more than 10.
- Do not touch other players' clubs, golf balls, carts, etc.
- Leave flagsticks in the hole.

- Book tee times by phone or online.
- Allow space between cars in the parking lot.
- Players should arrive no earlier than 30 minutes prior to their tee time. Warm up should occur 15 minutes before tee time.
- Wear a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting in close proximity to other golfers.
- Practice good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.
- Bring trash bags, food, and supplies. Plan to carry in and carry out trash and other items including items from your cart after your round.

Resources

- Hamilton, Franklin and Lake County Metro Parks
- Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), National Golf Foundation (NGF)

*Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.