

Golf Restart, Phase 2

COVID-19 Requirements and Recommendations

All golf courses have a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law. They must also comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices, as outlined in Gov. Jay Inslee’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Proclamation 20-25, and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries General Coronavirus Prevention Under Stay Home-Stay Healthy Order (DOSH Directive 1.70: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/enforcement-policies/DD170.pdf>) and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/workplace>.

Golf courses should stay updated on advice from the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) “Park and Play” program - <https://www.ngcoa.org/info-centers/covid19/park-and-play-program>.

Golf is widely seen as an activity that is viable and relatively low risk, however there are additional precautions that need to be in place to ensure the safety of players, golf course staff and club/course officials. In order to operate, the following requirements must be implemented at golf courses.

UPDATES FROM PHASE 1

- Section 3 now allows unrestricted golf groups.
- Section 15 requires the use of social media to disseminate Phase 2 guidance.
- Section 25 adds new language concerning practice facilities.
- Section 26 adds new language concerning guest supplies.
- Section 27 now allows in-clubhouse pro shops to operate in accordance with this document and standalone pro shops to operate in accordance with Phase 2 Curbside Retail Guidance.
- Section 28 now allows food service to operate in accordance with Phase 2 Restaurant and Tavern Guidance.
- Section 29 now allows for limited caddying.
- Section 30 now allows for limited use of locker rooms.
- Section 31 now allows junior golf events to resume with under five attendees.
- Section 32 now allows for curbside club service.
- Section 33 now permits tournaments to resume without giving rise to gatherings.

PHASE 2

Golf Operations *(These items will be assessed, and potentially modified, on a weekly basis.)*

Any course planning to reopen under Phase 2 must comply with the following:

1. Utilize on-line or phone tee time reservation systems to pre-pay and limit interactions, and restrict payments to credit cards only to eliminate the handling of cash.

2. Maintain a log of all customers, including contact information. For purposes of this log, customers are not obligated to provide their information, and the business should not condition service on a customer's willingness to do so.
3. Normal golf groups are permitted, although strict social distancing from members in other households is still required. Any additional restrictions will vary by locality.
4. Restrict play to one rider per power cart, unless all riders are from the same household.
5. Regularly sanitize counter tops, door knobs, other common surfaces, range buckets, golf carts, push carts, cash registers, score posting kiosks, and other frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment.
6. Ensure that the flagstick remains in at all times. Players will be educated to avoid touching the flagstick for any reason.
7. Be creative with cup liners to avoid having players reaching into the hole to retrieve golf balls, such as installing cups upside down or partly above ground.
8. Eliminate cups and holes on practice greens.
9. Discontinue club and equipment rentals.
10. Outdoor golf course driving ranges and practice areas, as well as standalone driving ranges, are functionally equivalent to golf courses and may be utilized if the operation meets the same standards that apply to golf courses. Operators must ensure their procedures incorporate the safety measures set forth in this document.
11. Remove bunker rakes and other on-course furniture like benches, ball washers, water coolers, etc.
12. On-course garbage cans are permitted. Lids must be removed to avoid any physical contact with the receptacle.
13. Modify driving range hitting areas to ensure a minimum 10-foot separation between players.
14. Install signage to discourage group congregation, or to limit numbers of people in a certain area of the club or pro shop. Golfers will be reminded to be especially mindful of social distancing in the parking lot, and around tees and greens.
15. Place appropriate signage outside the pro shop and clubhouse plus at the first tee entries briefly outlining the social distancing guidelines in place. Use social media to outline Phase 2 requirements.
16. Keep up to date on all changes that are happening daily.
17. Marshall the course to ensure physical distancing by reminding golfers, and where necessary, warning repeat offenders.

18. Ask golfers to leave the golf course immediately after playing to eliminate congestion/gathering on the property or in the parking lot.

Other Facility Operations

19. Increase the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the clubhouse area and check-in areas.
20. Restrict access where unauthorized visitors may enter, most specifically “back of the house” doors and entry points.
21. Increase frequency of HVAC system filter changing.
22. Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day.
23. Eliminate sit-down food and beverage services, and recommend customers use pre-order “take-out” or “to go” services only. Consider offering cart-to-cart delivery if feasible.
24. Outdoor lessons are permitted as long as the instructor and student(s) follow the safety measures set forth in this document. Small group clinics are permitted based upon the practice facility space available to ensure social distancing.
25. Indoor practice facilities may be open practicing strict social distancing. Facilities must implement practice ball sanitation protocols.
26. Guest supplies (scorecards, tees, pencils) will be made available in sanitized bags upon request. Water may be available on the course in sealed bags.
27. Golf shops within a clubhouse where golfers purchase rounds may sell other products. Standalone golf or pro shops must operate in accordance with Phase 2 retail guidance.
28. Clubhouses, beverage carts, and halfway houses may operate in accordance with Phase 2 restaurant guidance.
29. Caddies are permitted subject to other rules in this document regarding golf carts and social distancing.
30. Locker rooms are available for limited use, including restrooms, changing rooms, and assigned lockers. Course staff must ensure social distancing in the locker rooms and must sanitize the area every hour of operation. Showers, towel services, and similar amenities are not permitted.
31. Junior golf may resume with less than five people at an event.
32. Limited curbside club and equipment service is available. Curbside staff must follow the social distancing and PPE guidelines provided for throughout this and other workplace regulations. Club storage is not available.

33. For golf tournaments, as long as an event organizer can have protocols in place to ensure no large gatherings (ex. scoreboard area, clubhouse, registration, etc.), organizations can conduct a golf event. Any event must comply with all other provisions of this document. The tournament must be conducted via normal tee times. Shotgun starts are prohibited.

Employee Safety and Health

34. Ensure operations follow L&I requirements to protect workers, including:

- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between staff and customers in all interactions. When strict social distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, personal protective equipment or other acceptable protection.
- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing. Use gloves when possible (if not disposal, then ensure they are regularly washed).
- Make sure sick employees stay home or go home if they feel or appear sick, identify and isolate workers who exhibit signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, and follow [cleaning guidelines set by the CDC](#) to deep clean after reports of an employee with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 illness.
- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission.
- See the L&I [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention: General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) for more information.

No golf course may operate until they can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply.

- All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH). Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.
- General questions about how to comply with safety practices can be submitted to the state's Business Response Center at <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/how-you-can-help/covid-19-business-and-worker-inquiries>.
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted at <https://bit.ly/covid-compliance>.