



# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION

1511 Pontiac Avenue - Cranston, RI 02920

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Golf Courses

This is a notification from the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR) with respect to COVID-19. Our Department has received several inquiries from golf courses, which we would like to clarify and provide guidance for your operation. Golf courses should adhere to the following:

### **Effective on the Implementation Date of Phase 1:**

- Only Rhode Island residents and persons who are in this state for an extended stay and have completed 14 days of self-quarantining can play golf in Rhode Island.
- All food and beverage sales shall follow the most recent Executive Order, regulations and/or guidance as it relates to restaurants.
- Groups of 5 or more must not congregate anywhere on the property before or after playing according to the Governor's Executive Order.
- The Tee Time Policy is 10 minutes between groups.
- Practice areas may open provided: social distancing protocols are in effect at all time; putting and chipping areas are limited to 5 people at a time; driving ranges must space players at least 12 feet apart; all balls, baskets, and any items of common touch are cleaned and sanitized between each use.
- Golf cart usage is limited to one golfer per cart (or two golfers per cart if from the same household), and all golf carts must be sanitized before and after each round of play.
- Subject to the rider limits and sanitary requirements, a golf cart will be made available for use by any individual with an ADA-recognized or medically documented disability who requests it. The golf course may verify disability status through the tee time registration process by inquiring if the golfer has a DMV issued parking placard. These accommodation provisions will be included in the golf course's written procedures with respect to COVID-19 protocols.
- Push carts are allowed and must be sanitized before and after each round of play.
- Groups of players are restricted to no more than 4 players at one time.
- All golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs or rental golf clubs is not allowed.

- Parking lots must be monitored by the club to ensure that tailgating does not happen.
- Flag sticks must remain in the hole. Cups should be raised, lined, flipped or otherwise modified to prevent touching by players.
- Bunker rakes must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered.
- Retail stores/shops may open on a pickup only basis, or as provided under any department guidance issued for retail stores.
- Restrooms may be used, but locker rooms, lounge areas, spas, must otherwise be closed. Restrooms must be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- All golfers shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering unless doing so would damage the person's health. Face coverings are not required for golfers where they can easily, continuously, and measurably maintain at least six (6) feet of distance from other people.
- Organized tournaments and leagues are prohibited.

Our goal is to minimize close contact between people. We hope this provides clarification for how your course should be operating at this time. Thank you for your cooperation in these trying times.

If you have any questions, please feel free to submit your questions online to the Department of Business Regulation using the web form available at <https://dbr.ri.gov/critical/> or you may call the Department of Business Regulation at 401-889-5550.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Director  
Rhode Island Department of  
Business Regulation

Amended: May 6, 2020

