



Golf Course Guidelines

SARA BOSSE
Public Health Director

SIMON PAUL, M.D.
Health Officer

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It is the desire of the governor, as well as county and municipal leadership that all members of the community “stay home, stay well, and stay connected.” Staying well means maintaining a healthy lifestyle while reducing risks of COVID-19 exposure and transmission during this pandemic. Exercise and stress mitigation are critical elements of a healthy lifestyle.

With proper precautions, golf is a way to achieve both exercise and low risk social connectivity. Given the increased mental and emotional stress within all communities during the pandemic, these safe outlets are important to maintain.

If golf courses were to close completely, these closure could create a strain for law enforcement. Preventing unauthorized golf course use would be difficult at best. Closures which would leave golf courses unregulated by personnel could potentially result in larger groups of people gathering in unapproved ways, in larger groups than they would have if the courses were open.

With the attached guidelines, golf courses can continue to operate safely - sparing law enforcement resources, maintaining employment for golf course personnel, and helping community members to stay well and stay connected.

Specific Guidance

- Courses may choose to limit golfers from other counties to limit attendance.
- All golfers will pre-register over the phone or internet. All golfers will require a Tee time.
- Golf will be open for **customer owned equipment and carts only**.
- Customer owned electric carts may be utilized by the owner of the cart so long as only the owner and owner's equipment is in the cart (cannot carry another person or another person's equipment).
- Each course will develop a process for scheduling and tracking golfers and tee times that 1) allows for adherence to the social distancing requirements described in this guidance as well as 2) tracks golfer participation that will enable Public Health to complete contact investigation in the event of exposure.
- There will be no driving range facilities open. This is to reduce the risk of patrons touching practice balls and entering facility buildings.
- The golf facility will not rent any equipment including clubs, electric carts, or push carts. Each golfer must have their own golf clubs and equipment.





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- The flagsticks will not be removed.
- Devices will be installed to prevent the ball from falling all the way in the hole or from entering the hole all together (raised cups).
- Bunker rakes, sand buckets/bottles, and ball washers will be removed or rendered inoperable.
- All dining or picnic tables, benches and chairs will be removed to avoid congregating.
- Only employees will be allowed in facilities, including pro shops and restaurants.
- A golf marshal will ensure proper social distancing and no congregating or groups larger than 4.
- Tee times will be expanded to allow additional time in between tee times. This will result in increased spacing between golfing groups and players.
- Each course will submit to frequent, routine inspections from City or County staff - including but not limited to checks of parking lot entry procedures, ensuring compliance with resident only restrictions and facility changes.

Rules to be Posted for All Golfers

- Golfers will maintain 6' or more space in between each other.
- No high fives, handshakes, or hugs.
- Everyone must keep their own scorecards or a single person will be responsible for all scoring (no passing scorecards).
- No sharing clubs or other golf equipment.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Simon Paul, M.D.
Health Officer, Madera County

