After Quarantine: Getting Back to Golf

As the Minnesota weather begins to warm up, more people will be eager to get back out on the golf course with friends and family. Although golfing seems to be a safer activity related to the risk of exposure to COVID-19, when you return to the golf course, there are still many precautions and considerations to limit the chance of getting the virus.

Here are some vital measures your clubhouse and pro shop can take to combat this spread:

**SETTING UP TEE TIMES**

- Making tee times **online** is preferred. Tee times can be made by calling the clubhouse, but response time may be slow due to limited staffing.
- Golfers should arrive no more than 20 minutes before their scheduled tee time.
- If you are sick or experiencing respiratory symptoms, do not come to the golf course.

**CLUBHOUSES AND RESTROOMS**

- Upon arrival, come to the clubhouse to pay for greens fees and range use.
- Bags and clubs must remain in golfer’s possession – renting bags and clubs should be stopped until further notice.
- Consider doing all transactions as credit card only. No cash transactions if possible, pay online if possible.
- Clubhouses will be open with limited services.
- To reduce gathering, clubhouses will be one-way traffic flow. Consider having a limit of people in the clubhouse at once.
- Restroom facilities will be available at/near clubhouses and on the course.
- Gathering in the clubhouse will not be allowed.

There may be a lot of contact when playing golf, these suggestions are to avoid this situation as much as possible in the game:

**GOLF PLAY**

- Continue to practice social distancing with about 6 feet in between players.
  - Possibly post signs to remind golfers of this on multiple holes.
- Limit one person per cart, unless they already live in the same household.
- Please do your best to smooth the sand using a club or your shoe, as bunker rakes will not be available.
- Cups will be adjusted on the greens to reduce the need for touching surfaces when removing your ball.
- Flags should be left in place at each hole.
- Fast play is encouraged to promote social distancing.
- Ball cleaners should be covered or posted with a “do not use” sign.

**PRACTICE AREAS**

- Driving ranges will be open but may be limited due to staffing and supplies.
- Spacing will be increased to promote social distancing.
- Please limit your time on the driving range if there are others waiting.
- Putting greens are closed until further notice to promote social distancing.
SANITIZING GOLF CART INSTRUCTIONS

- Sanitizing—Clean/sanitize high-touch areas, including steering wheels, GPS unit, cup holders, seat and roof handles, windshield clamps, bag bays and basket, and floorboards. Use spray and sanitizer solution and let solution sit for 3 minutes, and then wipe with clean cloth. Park the cart for charging and let solution dry for maximum results.

- Returned—Golf cart must have NO trash, scorecard, or other golf supplies upon completion of the round. Staff will only accept golf carts that have been completely cleaned.

- Staging—Carts are to be parked at least 6 feet apart, with windshields down.

OTHER FACILITY OPERATIONS

- Increase the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the clubhouse area and check-in areas.

- Restrict access where unauthorized visitors may enter, most specifically “back of the house” doors and entry points.

- Increase frequency of HVAC system filter changing.

- Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day.

- 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.
When playing golf during a pandemic, all golfers will follow the rules and policies of the course. Making it clear that this matters to your course will go a long way in the golfer’s effort to follow the rules, as you obviously cannot monitor everybody during their match. Every effort made will go a long way in this battle of getting back to real life and limiting the spread of the virus in your community.

Resources:

- OSHA: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/additional_resources.html