



April 10, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor of the State of Washington
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the Golf Alliance of Washington, over 275 golf courses, and over 350,000 golfers in the state of Washington, we stand ready to do our part as local communities, states and the nation continue to respond to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We know that you have been, and will continue to be, called upon to make difficult decisions in response to this crisis. We recognize that public safety is paramount.

The golf industry would like to be part of the solution as life slowly gets back to normal. **We request that when we reach the deadline of the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order on May 4, that golf be included among those activities that are allowable, like our neighbors in Oregon and Idaho, beginning on May 5.** The physical activity and mental wellness golf provides can be a solution to improve the moods and reduce anxiety for many residents in our state. Furthermore, by golf courses being open and providing essential physical and mental wellness for residents, it will provide economic growth and jobs in a safe and healthy working environment.

The Golf Alliance of Washington is committed to doing all it can to support its constituents by being a resource of information and a clearinghouse of best practices that will provide guidance to all facilities, operators, golf professionals, club officials and stewards of the game. Before the March 25 order that closed golf courses, golf course operators all over the state were already taking extra precautions to ensure playing golf is a safe experience that complies with regulations laid out by the CDC and WHO. Additionally, many golf clubs are 501c7s, and are not eligible for small business loans under the CARES Act. Opening on May 5 with these precautions will allow courses to bring back jobs and also help with their financial distress.

Again, we want to be part of the solution. We are confident golf courses can provide a safe environment, and more importantly, give residents the opportunity to stay active during these difficult times.

Please find enclosed our statement and plan to be part of the solution. Also enclosed is an infographic summarizing the impact of golf in the state of Washington.

We thank you for your continued leadership and your attention to this important matter during such trying times.

Respectfully yours,

Troy Andrew | CEO/Executive Director
Washington Golf

Bill Ackerley | Executive Director
Western Washington, GCSA

Jeff Ellison | CEO
PNW Section PGA

Brian Coury | Executive Director
Western Washington PGA

Susan Rogers | Executive Director
Evergreen Chapter CMAA

Lori Russell, Executive Director
Inland Empire, GCSA





Statement from the Golf Alliance of Washington – We can be part of the solution!

The Golf Alliance of Washington embraces the opportunities for the future of the game, and provides a unified voice from all facets of the golf community in the state of Washington. Even in these unprecedented times, with the COVID-19 threat affecting all aspects of life as we know it, golf is available as an outlet for people to exercise and provides one of the few respites from the confines of home. With vast areas of open space containing green grass, ponds and trees, a golf course provides the ability for social distancing in a stress-free environment.

Recently, our game and business has been, along with many others in the state, significantly impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19. The Golf Alliance of Washington is committed to doing all it can to support its constituents by being a resource of information and a clearinghouse of best practices that will provide guidance to any and all facilities, operators, golf professionals, club officials and stewards of the game.

Golf is widely seen as an activity that is viable and relatively low risk, however there are still precautions that need to be in place to ensure the safety of players, golf course staffs and club/course officials. The following are a few examples we could implement at the golf course level to help ensure the regulations laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization are being met:

1. Instituting "Walking Only" play, or restricting to one rider per power cart
2. Removal of flagsticks, or similarly effective methods, to avoid additional touch points
3. Being creative with cup liners to avoid having players reaching into the hole to retrieve golf balls
4. Removal of bunker rakes and other on-course furniture like benches, ball washers, water coolers, etc.
5. Installation of signage to encourage no group congregation, or limiting numbers of people in a certain area of the club or pro shop
6. Continual sanitizing of counter tops, door knobs, other common surfaces, range buckets, golf carts, push carts, cash registers, score posting kiosks, and other frequently touched surfaces
7. Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day
8. Posting professional signage to encourage compliance of CDC regulations such as no hand shaking, frequent hand-washing, etc.
9. Having staff wear protective gloves at all times and face masks if warranted
10. Restricting payments to credit cards only, to eliminate the handling of cash
11. Eliminating scoring areas and/or modifying score card transmissions and returns between players and Committee members
12. Modifying driving range hitting areas to ensure a minimum 6-foot separate between players
13. Increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the clubhouse area and check-in areas
14. Increasing frequency of HVAC system filter changing
15. Educating staff on CDC requirements and proper hygiene and sanitation regulations
16. Keeping up to date on all changes that are happening daily

We are all in this together! The Golf Alliance of Washington is working on your behalf to help mitigate any detrimental outcomes that might occur during these extraordinarily unprecedented times. Our success depends on all of us banding together to create a synergy that will propel us beyond these dark times into prosperity.

Thank you,

Your Colleagues from the Golf Alliance of Washington



Good for people, good for Washington

Golf can help put Washington back on track to good health



BURNS CALORIES, PREVENTS CHRONIC ILLNESSES

A round of golf averages **12,000 steps**. Exercise helps prevent heart disease and other chronic illnesses and produces mood-boosting endorphins

BOOSTS MENTAL WELL-BEING



Fresh air, greenery, and sunshine (yes even under the gray skies) boosts the already powerful **esteem-enhancing and anxiety-busting** effects of exercise



ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

75% of Washington golf courses are **open to the public** and to golfers of all skill levels.

GOLF IS FOR EVERYONE



Golf is not just for a few people. More than **350,000 Washingtonians** played a round of golf last year and youth development programs reach **35,000 kids**.



PROVIDES 22,000 JOBS

The golf industry **employs 22,000** Washingtonians with wage income of **\$499.1 million** per year

STIMULATES WASHINGTON'S ECONOMY



Golf in Washington has an annual economic impact of **\$1.6 billion!**



GOLF GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Washingtonians raised **38.5 million in charitable contributions** through golf-related organizations and events that go back to benefit the community

A BOON TO WASHINGTON TOURISM



Washington is home to many top-notch destination courses. Golf related tourism to Washington **generates \$464.7 million** annually

