

# Back2Golf

Guidelines for Opening Up Golf  
May 15, 2020





# WHY BACK2GOLF NOW?

- **OBJECTIVE** - To work as Allied Golf Organizations in building a comprehensive and medically approved plan that allows golf to be played as a social distancing compatible recreational activity in the United States as we begin recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan has been developed to help open golf where it is currently closed and keep golf open responsibly.
- **KEY STRATEGIES:**
  1. Developed the operational underpinnings of the plan off the White House and CDC “Guidelines Opening Up America Again” including a specific, three-phased approach to golf that aligns with the broader plan to reopen the economy.
  2. Built a corresponding “Back2Golf Operational Playbook” that provides medically reviewed recommended practices for use at facilities across the country. [Back2Golf Operations Playbook](#)
  3. Adhere to all state/county/local health official’s guidelines and regulations when operators are building implementation plans which may differ from the Back2Golf Guidelines and Operational Playbook.
  4. Promote aggressively the necessary social distance guidelines specific to golf that lead to good behavior by golfers in every phase.

\* Please note the “Back2Golf Operational Playbook” will be updated in a real-time basis based on interim guidance from the CDC as it becomes available.

# GOLF IS A VALUABLE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

## 1. SOCIAL DISTANCING

- a. The essence of the game inherently allows its participants to practice proper social distancing

## 2. BURNS CALORIES, PREVENTS CHRONIC ILLNESSES

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

## 3. BOOSTS MENTAL WELL-BEING

- a. Fresh air, greenery, and sunshine boosts the already powerful esteem-enhancing and anxiety-busting effects of exercise

## 4. ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

- a. Golf is not just for a few people. More than 24.3 Million people played a round of golf last year and another 9 Million participated in off course golf activities.

## 5. PROVIDES JOBS

- a. Employer of nearly 2 Million individuals in the United States, including 350,000 maintenance staff workers

## 6. STIMULATES THE ECONOMY

- a. \$84.1 Billion Industry that also delivered \$4B+ in charitable donations



# PROPOSED PHASED-IN APPROACH

- As communities open-up, this plan may be implemented on a statewide or county-by-county basis where state/county/municipal laws and regulations may differ from these recommendations
- Based on up-to-date data & readiness
- Mitigates risk of resurgence
- Details responsibilities of individuals & employers
- Follows the three phases of CDC's "Opening Up America Again."

# THREE PHASES OF OPENINGS

## PHASE 1 (INDIVIDUAL)

- **VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS** should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with vulnerable residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from vulnerable residents.
- All individuals, **WHEN PLAYING GOLF**, should maximize physical distance from others. Social settings of more than 10 people, where appropriate distancing may not be practical, should be avoided unless precautionary measures are observed.
- Avoid **SOCIALIZING** in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (e.g., golf leagues, golf events, club meetings).

## PHASE 2 (RESTRICTED)

- **VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS** should continue to shelter in place. Members of households with vulnerable residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from vulnerable residents.
- All individuals, **WHEN PLAYING GOLF**, should maximize physical distance from others. Social settings of more than 50 people, where appropriate physical distancing may not be practical, should be avoided unless precautionary measures are observed.

## PHASE 3 (NEW NORMAL)

- **VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS** can resume public interactions, but should practice physical distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed.
- **LOW-RISK POPULATIONS** should consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments.
- All **GOLF OPERATIONS** may resume as normal including **UNRESTRICTED STAFFING** of worksites.



# COURSES & FACILITIES OPERATIONS

## PHASE 1 (INDIVIDUAL)

- Golf course **SET UP** should be restrictive (no bunker rakes, cups modified for no contact and no on course amenities).
- **INDIVIDUAL PLAY** can be permitted with no more than 4 players per group that either walk or ride alone in properly sanitized golf carts (two riders from the same family also permissible, if clearly identified).
- **PRACTICE FACILITIES** may open but are restricted to 10 or less people practicing strict social distancing.
- **GOLF INSTRUCTION AND CLUB FITTING** in person may be conducted on an individual basis where strict social distancing requirements can be met. Group teaching and coaching programming is conducted virtually.
- **CLUBHOUSES** should remain closed however **RESTAURANTS** may provide take out food.
- Standalone **GYMS** and outdoor physical activity permitted if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols and are monitored closely.
- **GOLF SHOPS** should remain closed and remote check in procedures should be enacted.
- **VIRTUAL EVENTS** are permitted based on appropriately spaced tee times. No staff administration of events and no pre or post gatherings. All scoring is done digitally.
- No **YOUTH** activities in person but virtual activities are encouraged.





# COURSES & FACILITIES OPERATIONS

## PHASE 2 (RESTRICTED)

- Golf course **SET UP** continues to be restrictive (no bunker rakes, cups modified for no contact and no on course amenities).
- **SMALLER GROUP ACTIVITY** (outings & league play) may be resumed if gatherings are kept under 50 people with strict social distancing. It is important to note that the 50 player limitation refers to gatherings (ex. Scoreboard area, Clubhouse, Registration, etc.). As long as an event organizer can have protocols in place to ensure that people do not have gatherings of 50 or more, then these groups can conduct a golf event with a larger field size as long as it is via tee times.
- Normal **GOLF GROUPS** are permitted and walking or riding in golf carts are permitted while adhering to social distancing practices.
- **PRACTICE FACILITIES** remain open but are restricted to 50 or less people practicing strict social distancing.
- **GOLF INSTRUCTION AND CLUB FITTING** conducted with adherence to strict social distancing guidelines. Small Group clinics may be resumed based upon the practice facility space available to abide by the social distancing guidelines.
- **CLUBHOUSES** may open but should operate at limited capacity as to adhere to social distancing policies.
- **RESTAURANTS AND BARS** may operate with diminished standing-room occupancy, where applicable and appropriate.
- Standalone **GYMS** and outdoor physical activity allowed if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols.
- Other **FACILITY AMENITIES** (locker room, tennis, pool, etc.) may open based on adherence to State and Local health authority guidelines.
- **GOLF SHOPS** may open at limited capacity as to adhere to social distancing policies and should continue to use remote check in procedures.
- Certain **LEAGUE, CLINICS, CAMPS AND ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES** may resume with strict social distancing guidelines.
- Certain **YOUTH** activities may be resumed with strict adherence to gathering restrictions and social distancing. Family members recommended to stay away.



# COURSES & FACILITIES OPERATIONS

## PHASE 3 (NEW NORMAL)

- Golf courses and clubs may return to **NORMAL OPERATIONS** while practicing enhanced sanitation and social distancing protocols.
- **CLUBHOUSES, RESTAURANTS AND BARS** may operate with increased standing room occupancy, where applicable.
- **LARGE GATHERINGS** (e.g., sit-down dining, charity events, weddings, etc.) operate under social distancing.





# THREE PHASED APPROACH

## PHASE 1

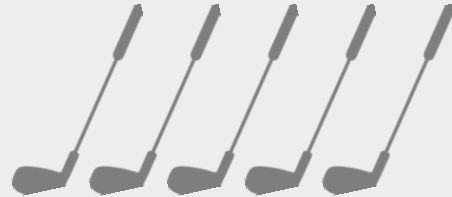
Individual Golf



- Gatherings of no more than 10 people
- Strict social distancing
- Walking the course or single cart riders
- Restricted golf course set up
- Clubhouses, golf shops and other amenities closed

## PHASE 2

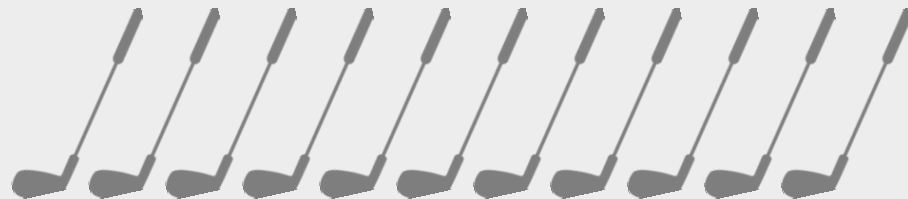
Restricted Programming



- Gatherings of no more than 50 people
- Social distancing maintained
- Normal groups of golfers may play together with social distancing
- Restricted golf course set up maintained
- Clubhouse operations are limited
- Restrictions on leagues, events and youth activities

## PHASE 3

New Normal



- Unrestricted gatherings with social distancing
- Comprehensive sanitization procedures
- New Normal golf operations
- New Normal golf course maintenance
- Full Clubhouse operations and events
- Unrestricted leagues and youth activities



# COMMUNICATIONS APPROACH

- Industry collaboration to coordinate messaging and consistency
  - Golf Course Facilities
  - State/Local Organizations
  - OEMs
- As communities open up, golf offers an opportunity for healthy exercise
- Timing and tone are key
- Back2Golf communications playbook
  - Provide communications recommendations for each phase (aligned w/industry-adopted “Operational Guidelines”)



# DISCLAIMER

## Allied Golf Organizations note the following:

- Information contained in this document and the corresponding operational playbook are for the general education and knowledge of the recipient. It is not designed to be, and should not be used as, the sole source of information when analyzing reopening plans and ongoing operations.
- As the situation surrounding COVID-19 is evolving quickly and the subject matter contained herein may be subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations, we urge you to consult legal counsel to assist in developing your specific operational plans and determining whether additional measures are warranted or appropriate.
- Please note that while the intent is to move forward through each phase, it may be necessary based on health conditions or poor behavior by golfers to take a step backwards.