



# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION

1511 Pontiac Avenue - Cranston, RI 02920

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

April 8, 2020 — 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 Immediately:

- Out of state residents are not allowed to play golf in Rhode Island.
- All food and beverage must be take-out only.
- Groups of 5 or more must not congregate anywhere on the property before or after playing according to the Governors executive order.
- New Tee Time Policy must be 15 minutes between groups.
- Please communicate with your members or customers they must stay in their car until 5 minutes before tee time check-in and go directly to the first tee.
- Practice putting green, driving range, and chipping areas must be closed.
- No golf cart usage permitted.
- Personal push carts are allowed only if brought by the golfer; club push carts are not allowed.
- 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. It is recommended that hole liners be raised, or pool noodles be added to the stick so picking a ball out of the hole doesn't occur.
- Bunker rakes must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered.
- Retail stores/shops should not be open, in-person retail sales are not allowed.
- Locker rooms, lounge areas, spas, must be closed.
- Food is available for take-out only.

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