



# El Paso Department of Public Health

**MAYOR**  
Dee Margo

## EL PASO ECONOMIC RESURGENCE

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## GOLF COURSE ORDERS AND GUIDANCE FOR RE-ESTABLISHING SERVICES TO PUBLIC

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**  
**April 28, 2020**

The current situation on COVID-19 in El Paso, TX continues to evolve. In light of the presence of COVID-19 in our community, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health is issuing the following Orders and Guidance to golf courses, which their employees, clients and golfers must follow to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, as well as the protective measures which must be undertaken at all golf courses.

Golf courses may be able to open to the public effective April 28, 2020, at 12:01 AM at a reduced attendance as described in this document.

Golf pro shops must remain closed and clubhouses with snack bars or grills may be open for take-out and carry out only, until May 1, 2020, when both golf pro shops and clubhouses may operate at up to 25% of total listed occupancy and on a take-out or to-go basis. These rules shall continue through May 15, 2020 subject to extension, expansion or amendment by the Texas Governor.

Golf pro shops are encouraged to consider dedicating a certain period of time each day for only at-risk customers (those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, chronic heart disease, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, liver disease, or weakened immune system) or deliver purchased goods to vehicles to reduce the need for at-risk customers to enter the store. If practical, golf pro shops should monitor what items customers touch to clean or disinfect when the customer leaves the retail establishment. Contactless payment is encouraged, but where not available, contact should be minimized.

Club houses with kitchen will follow restaurant guidance when applicable.





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## Social Distancing and Other Public Health Interventions

- Arrange Tee times to be within 45-minute intervals.
- Employees and visitors are encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines including maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet between individuals.
- Players must make reservations and pay for tee times in advance by telephone or online before coming to the course, no walk up play.
- If the course is private, play is limited to members only, no guests.
- Adjust waiting areas to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Avoid congregating in areas surrounding snack bars or grills. No beverage carts are allowed.
- Players are not to arrive at the course more than fifteen minutes prior to their tee time and must maintain social distancing while waiting for their tee time. Players must leave the course immediately when their round is finished.
- Walking is preferred and pull carts are allowed. The use of golf carts is permitted provided use is restricted to a single rider and anyone living in the same household.
- Groups of more than 4 golfers are not allowed. Only golfers are allowed on the course.
- Players are responsible for handling their golf bag and clubs. Course personnel will not handle bags or clubs at any time.
- No spectators are allowed.
- No golf instruction or academies are allowed at this time.
- Golfers are not required to wear a face covering in accordance with the Second Amendment to the City of El Paso Local Emergency Directive, also known as the latest Stay Home Stay Safe Directive, and Exhibit B to the Second Amendment to County Order No. 7, all as amended.
- Consider displaying posters and signs to frequently remind guests to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages may include information about:
  - Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well, and what to do if you're sick or feel ill.



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- Reminders of facial hygiene and cleanliness, such as avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.
- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water not readily available, people can use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol base.

## Rules for Course Set-up

- Carts must be staged at least six feet apart. Carts must not be parked closer than six feet from each other on the course.
- Clean and disinfect driving range golf balls between use.
- Ensure separation of at least 6 feet between golfers on the driving range.
- Putting greens and practice areas only available for players ten minutes prior to their tee time. Social distancing must be maintained on practice putting greens.
- No rakes in bunkers.
- No ball washers.
- All cups on greens must either be raised to prevent the ball from entering the hole or be filled with a liner which keeps the ball from dropping all the way into the hole so that players may remove their ball without touching the flagstick.

## Staff

- Employers should implement a health screening policy for all employees, and establish protocols for employee exclusion if they develop any of the following symptoms: feeling feverish or present a measured fever of greater than or equal to 100°F, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste and smell, diarrhea, other gastrointestinal symptoms, or have been in known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19.

20-1052-1069/PL#988607.3/Golf Course Orders and Guidance for Re-Establishing Services to Public

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- Employers should consider use of a touchless infrared thermometer to check the temperature of employees each day.
- Employees with a temperature above 100°F are recommended to be sent home until they have no fever and no evidence of COVID-19 symptoms.
- All employees shall wear a face covering while at work and interacting with other employees and patrons.
- Employees should wear gloves and wash hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Employers should consider implementing flexible sick leave and supportive policies and practices for employees considered high-risk (older than 65 years of age or with other uncontrolled medical conditions) for developing severe complications.
- Make available and visible COVID-19 prevention print materials at your business.
- Staffing beyond those needed for golf course maintenance and security should be minimal (limited number of cart attendants, starter to monitor tee times who must maintain social distancing).

## Sanitation

- Use disinfectant to clean common touch points.
- Prior to reopening, deep clean all surfaces and touch points with EPA-approved sanitization products.
- Prior to reopening, retrain employees on best practices to avoid contamination.
- Consider designating one person to clean high-touch points throughout the day.
  - Examples of high-touch point surfaces include doorknobs, gates, door handles and push plates, railing, faucets, and toilet flush levers.
- Employees should practice proper handwashing, observe respiratory etiquette, and avoid using other employees' phones, pens, notepads, or other work tools.



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- Clean and disinfect bathrooms regularly, particularly high-touch surfaces, and ensure they have handwashing supplies. Some facilities, such as restrooms or water fountains may be temporarily closed or restricted. Inform visitors if there is limited access to public restrooms or water fountains.
- Ensure that access to handwashing/hand sanitizing facilities and supplies are available for employees and customers.
- Require that when payment is required, must be made electronically or over the telephone; no cash or credit payments are allowed on site unless touchless payments and digital money transfers transactions are available on-site to minimize touching of writing implements and high touch surfaces.
- Strategic placement of approved hand sanitizers for employees and clients are encouraged.
- No public ice/water machines are to be in use. No drinking fountains in operation.
- Golf carts and push carts must be cleaned and sanitized by wiping all high touch areas (including steering wheels, cup holders, seats and roof supports and areas of the roof where players would grab entering or leaving the cart) before and after each round of use.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter. As soon as information changes, it will be made available through our website at [EPStrong.org](http://EPStrong.org)

The proposed Orders and Guidance are to be effective immediately and publicly disseminated around the City and County of El Paso, Texas.

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH  
Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

