

Laguna Woods Village | Temporary Reopening of Golf Courses and Driving Range  
Effective: May 11, 2020 | Revised: March 17, 2021 | Expiration Date: TBD

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Subsequently, on March 19, 2020, the governor issued Executive Order N-33-20, which ordered all state residents to stay in place and identified certain essential functions that could remain operational. Additionally, the order stated that individuals must adhere to strict social distancing guidance.

On April 21, 2020, the Orange County Board of Supervisors offered guidance for golf courses, including those in Laguna Woods Village, that have the ability to provide limited recreational opportunities on the courses by utilizing industry best practices to remain in compliance with the governor's executive order.

## **PURPOSE**

Safeguarding our community is of utmost importance. It is imperative that our community self-enforce and strictly adhere to the restrictions mandated by the governor, guidance on golf courses provided by Orange County and other applicable rules and regulations.

This procedure is intended to reduce risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, but is not a guarantee of your safety. Residents should use their own good judgment in determining the amount of risk of exposure in using any shared facilities or amenities. Risk of exposure involves many factors out of the control of the Village corporations and management, including the compliance (or noncompliance) and safe/unsafe behavior of others using the same facilities or amenities.

## **SCOPE**

This procedure establishes formal guidelines for the temporary reopening of Laguna Woods Village golf courses effective May 11, 2020 (for residents only), and a procedure for operating the courses during the COVID-19 crisis in compliance with the governor's executive order, county guidance, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The procedure reflects Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advice that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know now, those at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people 65 years and older.

The golf operations manager, with support from the recreation and special events director, are responsible for these activities.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. Applicability**

Golf courses and the driving range will reopen to Laguna Woods Village residents only. No guests are permitted on golf courses or the driving range.

### **2. Hours**

The golf courses and the driving range are open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

### **3. Facilities**

Golf operations will remain closed (golf course: clubhouse; par-three course: drop-in lounge and patio; driving range: patio and vending machines). Management will adhere to industry best practices for implementation that will allow for limited recreational access only to remain in compliance with state, county and other applicable safety requirements. The golf pro shop is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **4. Rental equipment**

Rental golf clubs are not available. Pull carts are available and are sanitized by golf course staff between uses.

### **5. Safety requirements**

#### **a. Touch points**

Benches are available. Ball washers and bunkers rakes will not be available.

#### **b. Social distancing**

Individuals must strictly adhere to the 6-foot social distancing requirement in all areas at all times. This will be enforced by golf course employees and course marshals.

#### **c. Face coverings**

Face coverings must be worn in all areas until teeing off on the course and when finishing play.

#### **d. Hand washing**

Individuals should wash hands frequently with soap and water.

#### **e. Touching**

Individuals should avoid touching their faces and refrain from shaking hands. Tip your cap for now.

#### **f. Health**

Individuals who are not feeling well should stay home.

### **6. Completion of golf round and/or bucket of balls**

Upon completing the round and/or bucket of balls, individuals must proceed directly to their car/cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregating in the parking lot.

## **GOLF COURSES PROVISIONS**

### **1. Scheduling**

Scheduling may be adjusted by course management as needed to satisfy safety requirements. All tee times will be available.

### **2. Group size**

Groups will be limited in size to no more than four golfers who must maintain social distancing in the group throughout the course. Five players may be allowed at the golf starter's discretion.

### **3. Distance between groups**

Groups are required to maintain at least 30 feet in distance between their group and the group in

front.

#### **4. Tee Times**

**a. Advance tee times**

Advance tee times must be reserved using the ForeUp online software. Contact golf shop staff to obtain instructions on using the system.

**b. Reserving tee times**

Log in to the system at 6 a.m. seven days in advance and follow the prompts to select from available times.

**c. Only one tee time can be reserved per day**

To play a second round in the same day, contact the course starter for available space.

**d. Resident identification number**

When reserving tee times you must have the names and resident IDs of each player you are reserving for to secure that reservation. Once a resident ID number appears in a reservation, no more times can be secured for that person. Reservations without all player information may be canceled by golf course staff to avoid the hoarding of tee times by different groups.

**e. Communication with group members**

Once a tee time is made, all players will get an email confirmation of that tee time. That tee time must be managed by each member. If a tee time needs to be canceled it can only be done by each individual. Reservations that are not canceled will be charged the regular fee for the day.

#### **5. Payment**

Each player will establish an online payment for their golf course member account. Each charge will be placed on the member account and charged to the online billing account at the end of each month.

#### **6. Course check-in**

All players will check in with the golf starter no more than 15 minutes prior to their assigned tee time.

#### **7. On the Course**

**a. Social distancing within group**

Golfers must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement within group throughout course.

**b. Distance between groups**

Groups must maintain at least 30 feet between their group and the group in front.

**c. Walking**

County guidance encourages walking with strict adherence to social distancing.

**d. Carts**

Golfers may share a cart but may request a single-rider cart. Regular cart fees apply to all

rentals and no more than four carts may be used in any one group.

**e. Touch points eliminated**

All touch points associated with the recreational aspect of golf must be eliminated.

**i. Flagstick**

Do not touch flagstick.

**ii. Cup**

Cup will have a foam disk inside the hole to keep the ball from going to the bottom and making it safe to reach in and retrieve the ball.

**iii. Bunkers**

Bunker rakes will be removed. Golfers must smooth sand with foot as best as possible. If ball comes to rest in a footprint or divot, golfer may place it on clean lie in same bunker.

**iv. Drinking coolers**

Drinking water coolers will be removed from course. Golfers should bring own water to the course.

**v. Other equipment**

Ball washers will be removed from course.

**f. Other golfers' equipment**

Golfers should not handle other golfers' balls, golf clubs, carts or other equipment.

**g. Restrooms**

Golfers must wash hands with soap and water when entering and exiting facility. Adherence to 6-foot social distance protocol required.

**8. End of round**

Golfers must proceed directly to their car/cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregation in the parking lot.

**PAR-THREE GOLF COURSE PROVISIONS**

**1. Scheduling**

Golfers will tee off in 10-minute intervals.

**2. Group size**

Groups will be limited in size to no more than four golfers who must maintain social distancing within group throughout the course.

**3. Check-in**

Golfers must check in one at a time at the starter shack. Golfers must wait their turn in designated lines in front of starter shack, adhering to 6-foot social distancing requirement at all times.

#### **4. Payment**

Each player will establish an online payment for their golf course member account. Each charge will be placed on to the member account and will be charged to the online billing account at the end of each month.

#### **5. Queuing**

Groups waiting to play must stand away from teeing ground and clubhouse while adhering to 6-foot social distancing requirement. Groups must take tee when starter calls group.

#### **6. Practice areas**

Practice areas are available, but social distancing must be maintained.

#### **7. On the course**

##### **a. Social distancing within group**

Golfers must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement within group throughout course.

##### **b. Distance between groups**

Groups are required to maintain one hole between their group and the group in front.

##### **c. Touch points eliminated**

All touch points associated with the recreational aspect of golf must be eliminated.

###### **i. Flagstick**

Do not touch flagstick.

###### **ii. Cup**

Cup will have a foam disk inside the hole to keep the ball from going to the bottom and making it safe to reach in and retrieve the ball.

###### **iii. Other**

Bag racks, water fountains and ball washers will not be available. Benches will be available and sanitized by golf course staff twice a day.

##### **d. Other golfers' equipment**

Golfers should not handle other golfers' balls, golf clubs, carts or other equipment.

##### **e. Restrooms**

Occupancy is restricted to one person at a time. Wait in designated spot until restroom is vacant. Golfers must wash hands with soap and water when entering and exiting facility. Adherence to 6-foot social distance protocol required.

#### **8. End of round**

Golfers must proceed directly home and avoid congregating.

#### **GOLF DRIVING RANGE PROVISIONS**

##### **1. Access**

Access to driving range is available by golf cart only through Gate 16 and the golf path to the south.

**2. Limited use**

Users must adhere to the 6-foot social distancing requirement. No other patrons will be allowed in the area; those waiting must remain in their golf cart or car until a spot opens up.

**3. Payment**

Each player will establish an online payment for their golf course member account. Each charge will be placed on the member account and charged to the online billing account at the end of each month.

**4. Practice duration**

Golfers must practice in timely manner. Range staff has authority to ask range patrons to finish session.

**5. Sanitation**

Buckets will be sterilized after each use.

**6. Nongolfers prohibited**

To comply with state, county and other applicable regulations, nongolfers are not allowed at the driving range.

**7. End of practice**

Golfers must proceed directly to their cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregation in the parking lot.

**8. Lessons**

Golf lessons are available with restrictions. Call the golf shop at 949-597-4336 for information.

**PUTTING GREEN PROVISIONS**

**1. Social distancing**

Golfers must adhere to 6-foot social distancing requirement at all times.

**2. Masks should be worn at all times**