



March 21, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon, 97301-4047

Re: Continued maintenance of closed golf courses during COVID-19

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, The Oregon Golf Association, Oregon Golf Course Owners Association, Oregon PGA Section, Oregon Club Managers Association – collectively representing nearly 200 golf courses as the Oregon Golf Alliance – and the Oregon Sports Turf Managers Association, thank you for your leadership during this challenging, unprecedented time. COVID-19's effects have been far-reaching across all sectors of life.

We are reaching out to you once again, this time in response to an almost certain pending Stay Home Executive Order to be issued next week, we are writing to respectfully request clarification for golf course *maintenance* as an essential business activity. Although Many golf courses in Oregon have already closed their restaurant operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, basic maintenance on the grounds cannot stop. Maintaining our state's golf facilities during this critical period of business shut down is exactly that, a critical function.

Spring is a critical time for turfgrass, and it cannot be neglected for extended periods of time. If turfgrass is lost, many courses may face permanent closure. Any halt or delay in maintenance now will only accelerate the potential for significant turf loss on golf courses statewide in the weeks and months ahead. Additionally, without timely maintenance, these large green spaces can quickly become overrun with weeds and invasive species that can compound illness with large amounts of pollen and weed seed being released into the environment.

Rest assured; the golf industry is taking aggressive steps to stop the transmission of COVID-19. CDC guided policies and best practices – such as social distancing, staggering of work schedules to reduce employee contact points, and increased sanitizing of all workspaces and bathrooms, to name just a few – have been implemented within our team's day-to-day operations. Golf course maintenance, by its nature, is an outdoor activity performed by individuals working on their own, naturally keeping extensive distance from other workers and not interfacing with the general public.

We are all in this together. The golf course and turfgrass industries stands with your office and Oregon's public officials to contain COVID-19. We hope you will endorse our interpretation to continue to perform these essential functions within our communities.

We look forward to your reply and invite your office to contact us at any time to clarify our concerns listed above.

Sincerely,

Your colleagues from the Golf Alliance of Oregon and the Oregon Sports Turf Managers Association

