

Golf Club and Facility Guidance (COVID-19)

Alert Level 3 Guidance: updated 31 August 2021

Alert Level 3

Golf is a permitted activity at Alert Level 3.

Advice for Golf Clubs and Facilities at Alert Level 3

While golf is a permitted activity at Alert Level 3, we advise clubs and facilities to take a cautious approach. If your club or facility does decide to operate under Alert Level 3 guidelines, an abundance of caution must be taken.

Guidance for Golf Clubs and Facilities at Alert Level 3 - Guidance as at 31 August 2021

Golf clubs, facilities and golfers must take appropriate steps to make sure they minimise the risk of infection from the COVID-19 virus. The number one priority should be the health, safety and wellbeing of your staff, members, golf participants and the wider community.

Alert Level 3 for Golf - Specific Operational Guidance

At Alert Level 3, limited playing of golf can be undertaken. Whether a golf club opens for play is entirely decision for each golf club to make. In the first instance, golf clubs and facilities must follow all government regulations around the NZ COVID Tracer App and display of the QR code plus the keeping of accurate records.

The most important principle is to stay safe and to stay physically distant from people outside of your bubble. Golf can therefore be played at Alert Level 3 so long as it does not involve the interaction of people from different bubbles.

If your club or facility does decide to open, it must do so under the following guidelines:

1. A system to record and retain the contact details of all staff, players and visitors must be in place to enable contact tracing should it be required. The NZ COVID Tracer QR code must be displayed.
2. A COVID-19 safety plan must be in place, including risk controls for any staff that may be on site.
3. Golf courses should control access to the facility where possible and advanced tee booking procedures should be in place (online, phone, text etc). This is to ensure there is no opportunity for players to congregate.
4. Golfers should arrive ready to play and leave the facility immediately after play.
5. Play is only possible for those playing alone or playing with others from within their bubble.
6. All clubhouse, pro shop, changing room, toilets and any other facility at the golf course must be closed to players and visitors (only available to be accessed and used by essential staff on site).
7. If retail, merchandise or takeaway food and beverages are to be provided, purchase and delivery must be completely contactless and observe 2 metre distancing. Players cannot enter premises.

8. Scorecards cannot be physically issued prior to play nor returned after play. No scores will be accepted by the national handicapping system from clubs operating at Alert Level 3.
9. An appropriate interval between tee times should be observed to ensure distancing between groups is maintained. A 6 minute interval between solo players is recommended. An interval of 10 minutes between groups that have two or more players is recommended. Golf courses might like to consider specific times of each day for groups of different sizes.
10. Players must maintain a minimum distance of at least two metres between themselves and other players on course who are not in their bubble.
11. Shotgun or multiple tee starts should be avoided in order to stop the congregation of players.
12. Driving ranges and other practice or warm up facilities must be set up to ensure minimum 2 metre distancing between players. If driving ranges are used, appropriate ball and surface sterilising must take place.
13. Equipment cannot be shared. If golf carts are to be used, they can only be used by people inside the same bubble. Golf carts and trundlers must be completely cleaned and sterilised after each use.
14. All pins must be removed from practice putting greens and all pins/ flagsticks are to be removed from the course. We suggest the hole is cut in the centre of the green. The cup should be slightly raised or placed upside down.
15. All bunker rakes are to be removed from the course and all drinking fountains, ball washers, shared sunscreen stations and on course toilets must be closed.
16. Any staff who are on site should be provided with any appropriate personal protection equipment to ensure they can remain healthy and safe. No physical interaction between any essential staff and players can occur.

Please note: the government may update the rules for sport and recreation at the various Alert Levels at any stage.

Further Information

For official government information, visit <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

For specific sport sector information, visit <https://sportnz.org.nz/>

Please be in touch with Golf New Zealand for any general queries.

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