



October 2020 Newsletter



Practice makes perfect

While that may not be true in many cases, practice can definitely help your golf game, although it often depends in part on how you practice and *where* you are able to do it . . .

We like to think we have one of the best practice facilities in the area, including a *real* practice green featuring a regulation-size green and two actual sand bunkers, unlike what you may find at other courses in the area. . . enjoy

Our 'five-ball rule' is there for everyone . . .

Our practice green as well as our putting green are open to all golfers, although we have had to recently institute a new "practice green rule" that limits golfers to using five balls at a time. Signs have been posted to reflect the change.

This is necessary because while the large majority of players use the green briefly then move on to the driving range or to the golf course for a round, a few golfers spend a lot more time on the green, use a lot more than five balls and generally make it challenging for other players to get in some short-game practice.

And because the green is there for chipping and bunker practice, we do ***not*** allow golfers to hit full shots from the practice green area back out to the driving range.

That often results in unsightly divots, so we appreciate your cooperation.





Around the Track

From GOLF WORLD

Golf World Magazine recently published this information:

One thing about a pandemic in the digital age is there's no shortage of information. It's the good information that has been more elusive, and that extends to our understanding of the coronavirus in a golf setting. Can you get the virus from even walking past another golfer? Is there danger in reaching into the hole for your ball? Should we be playing while wearing masks?

In consulting a series of infectious disease specialists, all of whom are still learning more about the virus themselves, several consistent themes emerge. The good news: Golf is relatively safe.

Can I contract the virus just walking by other golfers at the course?

Though the virus' main form of transmission is through person-to-person contact, experts emphasized just walking by other players on the course or in the parking lot was not a significant risk. The virus doesn't generally teleport from one person to another. It has to have some mechanism to get there. Yes, an infected golfer could emit respiratory droplets by sneezing or coughing in your direction, but that's why the doctors all cited the now-standard practice of maintaining a six-foot gap as a precaution. More is better, but these respiratory droplets rarely spread much more than spitting distance. When you're outside, the risk is even lower. Of course, the most important advice in this context is to tell anyone who is sick or symptomatic to stay home.

What if I'm sharing a golf cart with someone?

No question sitting within close proximity of someone for 9 or 18 holes invites more risk than walking a sufficient distance apart, which is why many courses are temporarily restricting cart use or at least limit usage to one person per cart. Although experts say riding in a cart is not a significant risk, they do acknowledge it violates the six-foot rule. Additionally, golfers sharing carts sends the wrong message at a time when caution is still paramount.

The other variable when using a cart is touching a surface, like a steering wheel, that someone else has touched before you, a risk courses can mitigate by sanitizing vehicles between uses.

. My golf course says not to touch the flagstick or rake a bunker? Is that really a danger?

Danger is probably overstating it. Touching flagsticks is "an extraordinarily ineffective way to get the disease," because infection depends on a rare confluence of circumstances: someone sick contaminating the flagstick, the virus persisting on the flagstick despite exposure to ultraviolet light (which is believed to reduce the viability of the virus on a surface), then you touching the exact same part of the flagstick and ultimately your face. So, in other words, a lot has to happen, and the same can be said for rakes. Any type of touched surface has the potential for transmission.

How about reaching into a golf hole to get my ball?

There will be very minimal risk in those types of situations. You can dream up any kind of odd situation where the virus transmits in these special circumstances, but that wouldn't be something to worry about. Similarly, there isn't much use worrying about your putter clanking against someone else's putter if that's your new form of celebration. So much of what we talk about is possible, but it's pretty improbable many of these implied scenarios would result in infection.

What about a handshake?

Again, if the cardinal rule is to maintain distance, then handshakes need to be avoided. And if for some reason muscle memory takes over and you revert to old habits, you can probably guess what the doctors recommend. If you're going to shake hands with someone, you need to wash your hands afterwards. Be smart and be safe.



