



Wednesday April 1, 2020

### **WHY ARE YOU STILL OPEN? COVID-19 (Coronavirus) UPDATE**

Community Members,

Thank you for your input and concern. We closed our restaurant March 17<sup>th</sup>, and to date the golf course and driving range remain open.

Like you, we are extremely concerned about our present situation and were early adopters of many extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our staff, guests and the wider community.

We encourage and support every individual's effort to do their part, stay at home, and help "flatten the curve." Outdoor exercise and activity are also recommended by all government sources. For those that do choose golf as an activity, we are pleased to provide a safe environment to accommodate. To arrive, check in, play and depart without ever having "burst your 6' radius bubble" is not only realistic, it is easy to achieve.

The game of golf is played in groups of 4 or less. The game itself often demands more than 6' spacing for safety. Modifying behavior within a group while playing is easy to do and we witness that extra effort consistently. Groups tee off at regular intervals, travelling in the same direction, at the same speed. There are often hundreds of yards between each group on our 150 acres of playable terrain, even at regular tee time intervals. We have instituted a "[Locals Only](#)" policy, reduced access to tee times to encourage longer gaps between groups and fewer people at the property daily. We are not requiring people that don't know each other to play together. Power carts are single ridership with spousal exceptions. They are being thoroughly pressure-washed and bleach-wiped between rentals. We have postponed the start of all weekly programs like men's and ladies' days and nights until further notice. We have removed most common contact points and those that remain are being sanitized regularly. Please view our list of [precautionary measures](#) for further information.

We have received great [feedback](#) from many who agree golf is a very safe activity providing fresh air, exercise, and even a benefit to their mental health during these challenging times.

We monitor industry, municipal, provincial, national and international news on an ongoing basis. The decision on whether to continue golf operations is a difficult one with many factors and ramifications and is reviewed daily. Our possible scenarios range from closing today to

### **COMMUNITY AT PLAY**

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remaining open throughout the pandemic. We encourage you to monitor our home page at [www.blueoceangolf.ca](http://www.blueoceangolf.ca) for regular updates.

British Columbia Golf and Golf Canada have voiced support for each course's decision to close. We are proud members of both organizations, we respect that position and understand they are addressing all courses in the province and country, including some of the busiest courses in the most densely populated areas, in regions most severely impacted by the spread of COVID-19.

The province of BC has clearly decided not to close non-essential businesses to date. We understand that the month of April will be crucial to monitor the effectiveness of BC's efforts to support social distancing, travel and quarantine restrictions. We have been encouraged by early reports on the status of infection on the Sunshine Coast. However, we acknowledge data is incomplete due to the nature of the disease, testing protocols and reporting privacy. In no way do we intend on relaxing safety measures any time soon. We proceed cautiously in the understanding that there is a risk of "community spread" but that the risk is presently low.

We have our finger on the "Close" button for our facility. We will not hesitate to make that decision when factors in our daily decision making justify that decision.

We are not entertaining accusations of profiteering and any communications we classify as "shaming" are simply being deleted with no reply justified. Our rates have not changed regardless of many extraordinary and voluntary measures that affect revenue potential. Our team members understand the disease and the risks, they understand they can choose to step back at any time, and all remain committed to providing their usual great service despite those risks.

We're all in this together. Please stay safe,

Ken Langdon

General Manager | Blue Ocean Golf Club

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