



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of the Michigan Golf Alliance and the nearly 800 golf courses in the state, we stand ready to do our part as local communities, states and the nation continue to respond to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. We know that you have and will continue to be called upon to make difficult decisions in response to this crisis and we recognize that public safety is paramount.

Michigan State University turfgrass scientists recommend if it becomes necessary to close the outdoor golf courses to the public during the pandemic, golf course maintenance should be allowed to proceed during the shutdown. An average golf course of 150 acres is a living ecosystem requiring continued maintenance practices such as regular mowing. Spring is a critical time for turfgrass, and it cannot be neglected for an extended period or it will be lost, and the community will lose a vital asset.

We are taking all necessary steps to keep maintenance staff safe by considering the health advisories and recommendations by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Practices such as social distancing, staggering staff work hours, mandatory glove wearing and sanitizing of hand tools are just some of the maintenance adjustments that the golf industry in Michigan is proactively instituting. Golf courses provide many recreational, environmental and economic benefits to the communities they serve, and continuing to maintain them during these unprecedented times will ensure they will be here when this crisis has ended.

Governor Whitmer, thank you for your attention to this important matter. We wish you all the best as you exercise judgment and wisdom to both protect and advance our communities.

Respectfully yours,

Chris Whitten
Executive Director
Golf Association of Michigan

Jada Paisley, CMP
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Michigan Golf Course Association

Kevin Helm
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