

Golf Club and Facility Guidance (COVID-19)

Last guidance issued: Monday 13 April 2020



This advisory contains:

- **Turf Maintenance Regulations at Alert Level 4**
- **General Guidance for Golf Clubs and Facilities**
- **COVID-19 Government Financial Support Package**

Turf Maintenance Regulations at Alert Level 4

From Tuesday 14th April urgent maintenance of golf courses will be permitted under Alert Level 4 restrictions.

Visit the MBIE website for the full information: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/coronavirus-covid-19/essential-services/>

MBIE Regulations

Maintenance providers should adhere to the following guidance. In doing so, operators and owners will need to form a judgment as to: (1) how best to apply this guidance to their particular circumstance; and, (2) which of their maintenance activities are genuinely urgent. We expect operators to minimise maintenance during Alert Level 4.

This guidance relates to golf courses.

Principles

Urgent maintenance of biological assets must be undertaken in a manner that:

- minimises, or eliminates if possible, physical interactions among staff
- ensures appropriate health, hygiene and safety measures are in place
- restricts activity to only what is essential during the Alert Level 4 period.

Practices

The following practice criteria provide guidance for those involved in the upkeep and maintenance of biological assets. Business should:

- limit work to only that needed to avoid the degradation of key biological assets (this does not include ornamental assets, for example)
- keep precise and up to date phone and address information for all maintenance workers until the end of the pandemic. This information is important for the process of contact tracing, should it be required to track down and prevent the further spread of COVID-19
- limit, or eliminate if possible, physical interaction between staff, for example
 - minimising the number of maintenance staff working during Alert Level 4
 - operating split shifts, or introducing staggered start times and meal breaks
 - adhering to the physical distancing requirements to ensure at least 2m physical separation between staff. [See the Covid 19 website for further information.](#)
- provide hygiene basics of handwashing and sanitisers. Specific further guidance can be found on the [Covid 19 website](#).
- most maintenance workers should not need to use PPE (assuming they can maintain physical distancing from other people).

[Further information can be found on the PDF on the health.govt.nz website.](#)

[Further information on face masks and hygiene advice.](#)



- ensure appropriate cleaning of tools, machinery and staff facilities, with specific cleaning at the end of a shift. [Guidance on how to clean surfaces correctly is available on the Covid 19 website.](#)
- ensure staff who are unwell or maybe contacts of someone with COVID19, stay home

Activity that is not permitted

- activity that is not related to urgent maintenance of key assets (i.e. care of ornamental assets, building maintenance that does not relate to an immediate health and safety issue)
- any commercial activity
- gatherings of people that are not usually involved in day-to-day maintenance to assist with essential maintenance of grounds or facilities (i.e. clubs must not organise volunteer working bees)
- turf maintenance is limited to major sports grounds as outlined above. Maintenance of school sports fields, recreational grounds not used for national events, fields used for casual recreational activity, sports club fields that do not host national events, or general use green spaces is not permitted (with the exception of hazard management, which is permitted under other Alert Level 4 rules and urgent maintenance of artificial turf).
- maintenance of driving ranges and mini-golf facilities

Enforcement

New Zealanders are relying on each other to keep everyone safe and stop the spread of COVID-19. If operators are too generous in their interpretation of what is essential or flout these rules, Government will take further action.

General Guidance

New Zealand is now at COVID-19 Alert Level 4.

LEVEL	RISK ASSESSMENT	RANGE OF MEASURES (can be applied locally or nationally)
Level 4 - Eliminate Likely that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustained and intensive transmission• Widespread outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People instructed to stay at home• Educational facilities closed• Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities• Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities• Travel severely limited• Major reprioritisation of healthcare services

This means New Zealanders not working in essential services must stay at home and stop all interactions with others outside of your household. This is a major step for the country however eradicating this disease is vital to protect people's health and ensure our health system can cope and look after New Zealanders who become sick.

The move to Alert Level 4 has major consequences for the golf sector. **From Wednesday 25 March at 11.59pm, all operations at golf clubs must cease for at least four weeks.**

This means all golf courses, practice facilities, clubhouses, pro shops, bar, function and catering facilities must now be closed. While this a major move for the country, the government is trying to save lives and we urge the golf sector to do all we can to play our part.

New Zealand Golf will continue to communicate any updates through our [website](#), social platforms and via direct correspondence.



Other Advice for Golf Clubs/Facilities

New Zealand Golf Operations

Essential New Zealand Golf services will remain in place over the next four weeks however our office is now closed. All events have been cancelled or postponed through until at least August. [Click Here](#) to view more details.

Social Connection for Club Members

Many golfers rely on the social connection at their golf club as a normal and essential part of everyday life. Clubs might consider offering a telephone service where members, particularly elder members, can check in and connect.

COVID-19 Government Financial Support Package

If your golf club, facility or business has been adversely affected by COVID-19 you may be eligible for financial support.

The best source of information on the support available is at this link: <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/financial-support/>

As a final thought, please look after yourselves and your families – life will return to normal but for now it's home time. As a golf sector its important to be positive and all stay connected as much as we can. Golf will be important to so many New Zealanders once we emerge from this current crisis.