



To the Community and Membership,

Rye Golf Club has always committed to being a good neighbor. We know that part of that commitment is doing our part in the local response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The staff and golf club commission have been carefully watching the developments of this continually changing situation for some time now. The club's first communication informing our membership about the fact that we were diligently monitoring the situation was March 13. Since then, the club has made several communications to reinforce and adjust various use and play restrictions.

Since that first communication the golf club has positioned itself to meet or exceed all public health directives that have been applicable to municipally owned golf courses in New York. On a daily basis we have and continue to review our existing temporary restrictions and carefully implemented additional measures to ensure we are being a good community partner while keeping all recreational golfers safe during this ongoing public health situation. The club is taking the COVID-19 crisis very seriously, and as fellow community members ourselves, the Staff and Commission are intently focused on identifying and eliminating any issues of concern for members using the club and the surrounding community.

Multiple times per week we are reminding our golfers about the importance of following all CDC guidelines for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In addition to these reminders here is a list of the following directives or temporary restrictions that we have put in place for all of our members. These restrictions exceed those directed by New York State for golf courses.

- All buildings, with the exception of two bathrooms have been closed. Where bathrooms are open, we are cleaning and sanitizing them on an hourly basis. Members are encouraged to avoid using the bathrooms if possible to reduce contact.
- We have increased the spacing between tee times by 20 percent in order to spread out our golfers on the course. To-date this increased spacing has worked very well.
- We are requiring that all golfers call ahead to make a reservation so that the staff can control the flow of traffic and avoid the congregation of large groups in the parking lot or at the first tee.
- Tee times are required, no walk-ups are allowed, and all changes must be communicated to the club in advance so the club knows who is on the course at all times.
- Concerned members who wish to play as a single are being allowed to do so. We are not pairing golfers with others as we would normally do to support social distancing.

- We are not allowing the use of any motorized golf carts – all play is walking only. This allows for greater social distancing and eliminates any need to sanitize carts.
- We have installed a device at the bottom of our flag sticks that prevent the golf ball from dropping to the bottom of the cup. This allows golfers to retrieve their ball without having to touch the flag stick or the sides of the hole.
- We have removed rakes from our bunkers to avoid that possible touch point.
- All food and beverage outlets at the club are currently closed.
- We have directed golfers to stay away from neighboring properties.
- We have added additional signage at the entry point to the golf course to remind golfers that they must return home if they are sick or have been exposed to the Covid-19 virus.
- We have added signage on every tee box reminding golfers to maintain social distancing.
- We have added additional staff to ride around the golf course and remind members about the importance of social distancing.
- All guest play has been suspended through April 30th, the course is currently open to members only.
- Whitby Castle has canceled all gatherings through at least May 8th.

The golf club staff and commission is not resting upon these current measures. Where further proactive response is necessary we will follow through. One of the reasons why golf courses (such as Westchester County Parks and NYS Parks courses) are allowed to remain open is because of the healthy, open-air recreation that golf provides. Currently Rye Golf Club measures exceed New York State recommendations for golf courses. Further information about golf during the Covid-19 pandemic may be found by viewing these two articles:

[Golf Week: *Playing Golf During the Coronavirus*](#)

[Golf Digest: *Can You Play Golf During the Coronavirus*](#)

For additional information about the New York State requirements for golf courses, please visit the following link.

[Information on NY States Position On Golf During Coronavirus](#)

Thank you very much for your interest and attention. On behalf of the RGC Staff and Commission, we are committed to provide safe recreation that is responsive to the dynamic situation we all find ourselves in. We welcome your feedback and look forward to better days ahead.

Sincerely,

Rye Golf Club Staff
Rye Golf Club Commission

RGC Notification Dated April 8, 2020