



## Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Dear PAGCS Members,

I am reaching out to update the membership on the current COVID-19 response efforts on behalf of the golf turf industry.

There was a statewide conference call this morning to address Gov. Wolf's mandated shutdown that goes in to effect Monday. This call included leaders representing the PAGCS, along with all seven chapters in the state and the PGCSA, as well as PTC, KAFMO, STMA and NGCOA, and was facilitated by GCSAA. The effort underway is to advocate for the absolute necessity for golf courses to be maintained.

As result of recent efforts and this call, a letter to the governor is in its final stage. It is endorsed by the leadership of all seven state chapters, as well as NGCOA and PTC.

This letter advocates for the critical necessity of maintaining the 700 golf courses in the state and will, among other points, emphasize the following:

According to Section 9 of the "Life-Sustaining Business Frequently Asked Questions" document issued by your office:

"Businesses suspending physical operations must limit on-site personnel **to maintain critical functions**, and in all cases follow social distancing and COVID-19 mitigation guidance provided by the PA Department of Health and CDC."

This cohesive statewide response will be channeled through the Speaker of the House, Mike Turzai, directly to Gov. Wolf. The goal is to have that happen ASAP/before Monday's enforced shutdown. It is possible that additional actions will be advised once this happens, and we will keep you informed in timely manner.

In the interim, the steps we should take include creating an in-house plan at your facility that is endorsed by leadership [green chair, GM, board, etc.] and have it in place and communicated and documented. Here are guidelines being used on a national level that can help each facility devise a plan.

### **The golf industry is proactively implementing all necessary precautions at golf facilities**

- The golf industry is taking all necessary precautions to keep maintenance staff safe by taking into account all health advisories and recommendations by the CDC.

- To emphasize safety, Golf Course Superintendents have proactively adjusted maintenance practices in many ways, including but not limited to:
  - Increasing communication with owners, management, and staff regarding altered golf course management practices
  - Taking temperature of staff members as they arrive
  - Staggering of staff starting times to reduce employee contact points
  - Keeping 6 ft social distancing at all times throughout the day
  - Eliminating time clocks or assigning one individual the responsibility of punching employees in/out to reduce touch points
  - Increased sanitizing of all workspaces and bathrooms
  - Mandatory wearing of gloves at all times
  - No sharing of utility vehicles
  - Sanitizing all hand tools

At this time of crisis, I, as well as the PAGCS leadership, am here for the membership, and we are doing everything within our power to advocate for the industry. Please feel free to reach out to me or the office or any Board member as we move through this crisis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Doug Rae, PAGCS President