



April 24, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **COVID-19 Golf Operations Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide you information about the planned reopening of two of the Park Board golf courses, Fraserview and McCleery, on Friday, May 1, 2020. The reopening of these courses will be announced via a news release, social media, Vancouver.ca, and targeted communications to the golf community on Monday, April 27 at 10:00am.

Walkers (one-way) will still be welcome on both courses, from dawn until 8:00am on the back nine holes, for community members to access nature and green space.

Langara Golf Course will remain closed for play as the clubhouse is currently being used to prepare meals for residents of the Downtown Eastside. The pitch and putt courses in Queen Elizabeth, Rupert and Stanley parks will also remain closed for the time being.

The decision to reopen Fraserview and McCleery was made after significant preparation and consultation with industry partners and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). VCH has confirmed that golf provides a safe outdoor recreation opportunity during this difficult time as long as specific physical distancing golf protocols are in place.

Based on BC Ministry of Health requirements, staff have planned a series of comprehensive measures for golfers and staff to ensure safe play at both courses, and course marshals will ask anyone not complying to leave. These measures include:

- golfers will be asked to arrive at the course no more than 20 minutes prior to tee-off and to remain in their vehicles (no congregating) until they are ready to play; they will be directed to leave immediately after completing their play;
- a golf starter will be stationed outside the Golf Shop to direct guest entry, start groups off the first tee, and to enforce physical distancing;
- only two patrons will be allowed in each Golf Shop at a time;
- all bookings will be completed online; no walk-ups will be allowed;
- food and beverage services will remain closed, and contactless pay will be required (debit and credit only, no cash);
- golfers will tee-off at 18 minute intervals (half as many tee times as normal), which will result in a maximum of 12 golfers teeing-off per hour;
- a single rider cart policy will be implemented, with all carts being sanitized in a designated area between use;



- all frequent touch points such as bunker rakes, garbage can lids, sand bottles, ball washers, and shoe blowers will be removed;
- physical distancing standing circles will be painted on the cart paths at every tee box area;
- pull carts will be cleaned and sanitized for every user; no rental clubs will be available;
- flag sticks will not be touched; cup fillers will keep the ball from going to the bottom of the hole.

Measures introduced to keep golf course maintenance staff safe include:

- schedules have been adapted and on-course procedures adopted to distance crew members;
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) has been provided and will be in use; and
- Communications staff have developed a comprehensive signage plan to ensure all users are aware of the changes.

The golf courses average 100+ acres each and provide the ideal location for healthy activity with ample space for physical distancing.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/gt/cu/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications
City Manager
EOC Director