

April 13, 2020

Dear Harvest Golf Club Members,

I would like to sincerely thank our members for your patience leading to this announcement. I would also like to express my gratitude to the many who have reached out, and for the wonderful support our membership has demonstrated these last few weeks. Over the last 21 days, I have been in contact with many members, various golf associations, Lower Mainland & Okanagan course operators and local Health Authorities. In every exchange we encountered the same re-occurring questions: What are government guidelines/restrictions? What should be the protocols required and how can we best ensure the safety and comfort of club staff, members and public alike? Golf courses were always permitted to open for business, but we made the concerted decision to remain closed with other courses to do our part in preventing the spread of the COVID-19. The Harvest GC sprawls over 175 acres including course, range, parking lot and clubhouse surrounds, and we believe we can provide a safe and healthy environment for members to enjoy. One thing is for sure- these are confusing times to process and navigate.

Through our ongoing research, we have created a comprehensive list of "Best Practices" attached to this email, including additional measures to suit our site's logistical needs. However, please be prepared; golf in 2020 and the foreseeable future will look significantly different than what we are all accustomed to. When open for play this Friday, we will not ask but demand that all measures be respected without compromise. The complete cooperation of everyone will be the only way this can work safely and manageably for our team to navigate. In representing our Owners, Directors, teammates and the finest membership in the Okanagan, nothing is more important than the safety of everyone during these disruptive times.

Recently, representatives of the NCGOA met with Interior Health inspectors to discuss gathering limitations, with golf being an outdoor activity over a wide acreage that can provide safe social distancing. Also, more is being said about the benefits of physical and mental relief golf might bring. Inspectors were pleased with measures presented and were going to them past along to Dr. Bonnie Henry's office for further consideration. Even if adjusted, our approach/protocols, would remain strictly enforced while this pandemic last.

After careful review, we are pleased to announce that The Harvest Golf Club will open for play for MEMBERS ONLY-NO GUESTS effective Friday, April 17th. Member only access should provide a more manageable, safer and hopefully more comfortable environment. (OPENING MEASURES WILL REMAIN SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON HEALTH AUTHORITY DIRECTIVES) Tee times will be accepted online at 8:00 am on Wednesday, April 15th for April 17th through April 22nd. Tee times for April 23rd can be booked at 10:00 pm on April 15th, for April 24th at 10:00 p.m. on April 16th, etc. Initially, booking will be restricted to 7 days in advance. Please note that you MUST have a tee time to play- **no walk-ons will be allowed.** This policy will be in affect until further notice. Tee times have been extended to 10 minutes intervals allowing proper social distancing and to prevent overcrowding our surrounds. With the possibility of frost until May 1st, daily tee times start will be 9:00 am until then.

I also would like to thank our Ladies Club Captain Lynne Godfrey and Senior Club Captain Bill Harvey for their support as regular activities for both Senior Men's and Ladies Club will be suspended until further notice, this in wanting to provide equal access to all members. When things return to normal, our immediate priority will be to resume regular club activities and bring your club back to normalcy. Otherwise, we will be communicating on a more regular basis. It is important that all members take time to read any announcements or newsletter sent to you, so we may navigate these unusual times together in the most cooperative manner.

ONLY THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMMITTED FOR THE 2020 SEASON WILL BE PERMITTED TO PLAY IN THIS EARLY SEASON MEMBER WINDOW. IF YOU HAVE NOT JOINED FOR 2020 YET, MEMBERSHIPS MAY BE RENEWED OVER THE PHONE ONLY (TO PREVENT OVERCROWDING IN THE GOLF SHOP). RENEWAL BE ACCEPTED BY CONTACTING THE GOLF SHOP AT 250-862-3103, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. EFFECTIVE MONDAY, APRIL 13th ONWARD. ALL MEMBERS SHARING A CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP MUST SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS AT ONCE.

Thank you once again for your patience, support and understanding during these unforeseen and disruptive times. We truly have the best membership East of the Mississippi! I feel very optimistic that your great club will continue to be a wonderful place to belong and enjoy a round with congenial friends (from 6 feet away!) both before and after the world returns to a new normal.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Gilles Dufort,
General Manager/ Executive Professional
The Harvest Golf Club

Harvest Golf Club
COVID-19 Protocols

click here