

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED ADVISING ALL INDIVIDUALS LIVING
IN THE COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE AND CONTINUE SOCIAL
DISTANCING; IDENTIFYING BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES THAT
MAY OPERATE; AND LIMITING OF LARGE GATHERINGS

DATE OF ORDER: July 3, 2020

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. This Order repeals and replaces all previous Stay at Home and Stay Safe orders issued by the Health Officer of Merced County, except for the Febrile Respiratory Illness Order issued on April 7, 2020. This Order does not supersede any conflicting or more restrictive orders issued by local governments, the State of California, or the Federal Government.
2. This Order implements Executive Order N-33-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 19, 2020, as well as the Order of the State Public Health Officer issued on March 19, 2020, and all subsequent amendments and modifications thereto, including the Resilience Road Map (“Collectively, “Governor’s Orders”). Persons under a Public Health quarantine order must comply with such Orders.
3. The current data reflects that community spread of infection in Merced County is of increasing concern. In addition to the impact on the general population, community spread increases the likelihood of expanded transmission of COVID-19 in congregate settings such as nursing homes, homeless shelters, jails and prisons. Infection of these vulnerable populations in these settings can be catastrophic. Higher levels of community spread also increase the likelihood of infection among individuals at high risk of serious outcomes from COVID-19, including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

Bars, pubs, breweries, brewpubs, dine-in restaurants, wineries and tasting rooms, family entertainment centers, zoos, museums, and cardrooms are sectors with high risk of transmission. These sectors are settings where groups convene and may mix with others for a prolonged period of time, increasing the risk of escalating the transmission rate of COVID-19. While these businesses represent a valued part of the fabric of our community, the characteristics of these types of establishments contribute to an environment with substantially increased risks for COVID-19 transmission. Accordingly, the Merced County Health Officer orders that these Sectors adhere to the directives of the California Department of Public Health and the Governor.

4. Guidance for Individuals
All private gatherings of over 10 people are prohibited, except as otherwise stated herein or authorized by the Health Officer. Individuals are encouraged to engage in

outdoor activities, including but not limited to walking, hiking, biking, golfing, running or equestrian activities, provided the individuals, or households, comply with Social Distancing Requirements. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.

- a. For purposes of this Order, “Social Distancing Requirements” includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals not from the same household, wearing a face covering when in public or common spaces, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.
- b. In accordance with direction from the California Department of Public Health and the Governor, all members of the public are required to wear face coverings when in public or common spaces. Individuals should refer to the California Department of Public Health “Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings” for details including all requirements and exceptions. Face coverings, when combined with social distancing and handwashing, may prevent transmission of COVID-19 by reducing respiratory droplet exposure.

5. Guidance for Businesses and Organizations

All businesses and organizations in the County should refer to Appendix A of this Order for guidance as to whether the business or organization may remain open or reopen. Appendix A is intended to be consistent with the Governor’s Orders and Resilience Road Map, the directive from the California State Public Health Officer designating “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” and/or the State variance granted to the County.

Worship services and funeral services may continue so long as compliant with Governor’s Orders and the Worship Services Safe Distancing Rules provided by the Merced County Department of Public Health.

In accordance with direction from the California Department of Public Health and the Governor provided on July 1, 2020, the following sectors, businesses, or establishments in Merced County must comply with the following:

- a. Bars, pubs, brewpubs, and breweries, whether operating indoors or outdoors, are required to close.
- b. Indoor operations are restricted as specified below:
 - i. Dine-in restaurants must close indoor seating to customers. During this closure all dine-in restaurants may continue to utilize outdoor seating and must comply with the State guidance for dine-in restaurants. Restaurants should continue to encourage takeout and delivery service whenever possible.

- ii. Wineries and tasting rooms must close indoor services to customers. During this closure all wineries and tasting rooms must comply with the State guidance for restaurants, wineries, and bars.
 - iii. Family entertainment centers and movie theaters must close indoor services and attractions to customers.
 - iv. Family entertainment centers may continue to provide outdoor services to customers, and must comply with the State guidance for movie theaters and family entertainment centers.
 - v. Drive-in movie theaters may continue to operate and should follow additional applicable State guidance for retailers of Drive-In Movie Theaters.
 - vi. Indoor attractions at zoos and museums must close to visitors.
 - vii. Zoos and museums may continue to operate outdoor attractions and must follow the State guidance for zoos, museums.
 - viii. Cardrooms must close indoor services to customers and must follow the State guidance for cardrooms.
- c. These sectors, businesses, or establishments will be authorized to reopen or resume indoor activities upon receiving guidance from the California Department of Public Health or the Governor and/or permission to reopen through the State variance granted to the County and State Monitoring List status.

In addition, the following sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities are required to remain closed: indoor playgrounds such as bounce centers, ball pits and laser tag; live theatre; saunas and steam rooms (including public hot tubs); nightclubs; concert venues (indoor and outdoor); festivals (including fairs, carnivals and parades); theme parks; and higher education. These sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities will be authorized to reopen upon receiving guidance from the California Department of Public Health or the Governor and/or permission to reopen through the State variance granted to the County and State Monitoring List status.

All sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities not authorized to open or reopen at this time shall cease activities and shall close their facilities, except for basic minimum operations such as activities to maintain value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or related functions. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations to the extent employees or contractors can perform work from home or place of residence.

6. Operating Requirements for All Businesses and Organizations:

- a. All individuals are required to wear face coverings in common spaces of businesses. Business owners should post signage at all entrances to the facility that face coverings are required. Businesses have the authority to refuse entrance for failure to wear a face covering; and
- b. Limit the number of people who can enter into the facility/job site at any one time to ensure that people in the facility/job site can easily maintain a minimum

- six-foot distance from one another at all times, except as required to complete business activities; and
- c. Require employees to wear face coverings or use other protective barriers (e.g., plexiglass, cubicles) where six feet of distance is not easily maintained between employees, or between employees and the public; and
 - d. Where lines may form at a facility/job site, mark six-foot increments at a minimum, to establish where individuals should stand to maintain adequate social distancing; and
 - e. Provide hand sanitizer, proper handwashing stations with soap and water, or approved disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility/job site and other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees, and in locations where there is high-frequency employee interaction with members of the public (e.g., cashiers); and
 - f. Provide for contactless payment systems or, if not feasible to do so, provide disinfectant for all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use; and
 - g. Regularly disinfect all high-touch surfaces and equipment; and
 - h. Post a sign at the entrance of the facility/job site informing all employees and customers of the requirements set forth in the Febrile Respiratory Illness Order issued on April 7, 2020; and
 - i. Assign a safety officer to ensure compliance with Health Officer Orders, State Guidance, and OSHA regulations, as applicable.
 - j. Businesses and organizations should reference the updated industry specific guidance provided by the State found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>.
7. Parks and cemeteries are authorized to open with limitations. The Health Officer, in conjunction with other County departments, may order local parks and other outdoor areas closed on specific dates to limit large gatherings. Playgrounds, large park picnic areas, and indoor facilities in parks must remain closed until authorized by the Governor's Orders or authorized by the State variance granted to the County.

Individuals utilizing these outdoor spaces shall adhere to the Guidance for Individuals in Section 4 of this Order, which prohibits gatherings of over 10 people, maintaining at least six-foot distance from individuals not from the same household, and frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer. Golf courses may remain open if following approved operational guidelines provided by the Merced County Department of Public Health.

- 7.5 In the event that the Health Officer determines that hospitalizations, or other factors, indicate an increased transmission of COVID-19 or stresses on critical healthcare infrastructure, the Health Officer may issue an addendum to this order requiring additional prevention measures or closure of certain higher risk activities and businesses. In instances where the County no longer meets the epidemiological stability criteria set forth by the State, the County variance may be revoked or modified by the State, which may require further closure of some businesses permitted to open under the County's variance.

8. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code Sections 101029 and 131080, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order, including facility or business closure, to the extent law enforcement, in consultation with the Health Department, believes that businesses or other organizations are operating outside of Social Distancing Requirements or in an otherwise unsafe manner. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health. Consistent with the views expressed by the Governor and after consulting with the Merced County Sheriff, the Health Officer believes that enforcement through education is preferable but that other means of enforcement may be employed, as deemed appropriate by the law enforcement agency.

Violators of this Order may be subject to a fine in the amount of \$100.00 for a first offense, \$200.00 for a second offense, and \$500.00 for a third and subsequent offense (California Government Code Section 8665).

9. In accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 131080, the Health Officer will follow the guidance of the California Department of Public Health and may modify or extend this Order, or issue additional Orders.
10. This Order shall become effective on Friday, July 3, 2020 at 12:00 a.m., and continue until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
11. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Administration Building at 2222 M Street, Merced, California 95340; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department's website (countyofmerced.com); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.
12. If any provision of this Order to the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Salvador Sandoval, MD, MPH
Merced County Health Officer

Dated: July 2, 2020

APPENDIX A

This Appendix is intended to reflect the Governor's Orders, the directive from the California State Public Health Officer designating "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" and/or the State variance granted to the County.

The follow industry sectors shall comply with applicable State Guidance requirements found at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>.

Additional guidelines may be viewed at the Reopen Merced County requirements for business website link: <https://reopenmercedcounty.com/guidelines/>.

- i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
- ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of food, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products), unless specifically noted to remain closed in Section 5 of this Order. This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
- iii. Agriculture, food, and beverage cultivation, processing, testing and distribution, including but not limited to, farming, ranching, fishing, dairies, creameries, wineries and breweries in order to preserve inventory and production (not for retail business), as well as business activities that support production and processing by providing essential agricultural supplies and services, including but not limited to, transportation, manufacturing, chemicals, equipment, and services such as cooling, storing, packing, and distribution of such products for wholesale or retail sale;
- iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, sales and auto-repair, and related facilities such as drive-thru automatic car washes and detailing services;
- vii. Banks and related financial institutions;
- viii. Hardware stores;
- ix. Animal care facilities that provide food, shelter, veterinary and/or routine care and other necessities of life for animals including grooming, dog day care, rescue, and boarding;

- x. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, custodial/janitorial workers, handyman services, funeral home workers and morticians, moving services, HVAC installers, carpenters, vegetation services, tree maintenance, landscapers, gardeners, pool maintenance, property managers, private security personnel and other service providers who provide services to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation to properties and other Essential Businesses;
- xi. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- xii. Schools and school-based programs. Higher education is not permitted to be open for in-person learning at this time; this sector will be permitted to reopen when authorized by the Governor's Orders and/or authorized by the State variance granted to the County;
- xiii. Laundromats, drycleaners, and laundry service providers;
- xiv. Outdoor dining at restaurants and other food facilities, including schools. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food may continue to provide delivery, take-out, and curbside pick-up;
- xv. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- xvi. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- xvii. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xviii. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- xix. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- xx. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- xxi. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
- xxii. Delivery services that provide transport of essential products, such as water, food and household products;
- xxiii. Childcare facilities;
- xxiv. Retail and related manufacturing and logistics;

- xxv. Hair salons and barbershops;
- xxvi. Destination retail, including shopping malls and swap meets; tanning facilities; office-based businesses;
- xxvii. Casinos, outdoor cardrooms where allowed by law, and racetracks;
- xxviii. Outdoor service at wineries and tasting rooms; only curbside service of sealed pre-packaged beverages allowed with proper Alcoholic Beverage Control license for bars, brewpubs, breweries, and pubs;
- xxix. Gyms and fitness centers;
- xxx. Outdoor movie theatres, outdoor family entertainment center activities, outdoor zoo exhibits/activities, outdoor museum exhibits/activities, day camps, campgrounds and outdoor recreation, music/film/TV production, professional sports without live audiences, and youth sports/activities. Youth sports/activities shall follow the specific operational guidelines provided by the Merced County Department of Public Health;
- xxxi. Public pools. Saunas and steam rooms (including public hot tubs) are not permitted to be open at this time. These facilities will be permitted to reopen when authorized by the Governor's Orders and/or authorized by the State variance granted to the County;
- xxxii. Hotels (for tourism and individual travel) and short-term rentals;
- xxxiii. Personal care services including facials, electrology, waxing, esthetics, skin care, cosmetology, nail salons, tattoo/body art, piercing, and massage therapy in non-healthcare settings;
- xxxiv. Other businesses/activities allowed to reopen pursuant to the Governor's Orders and/or authorized by the State variance granted to the County.

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED DIRECTING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO REPORT PATIENTS SEEN WITH FEBRILE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS TO MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; DIRECTING EMPLOYERS TO SCREEN EMPLOYEES FOR FEBRILE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS; AND DIRECTING INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITHIN THE COUNTY TO SELF-MONITOR FOR SIGNS OF COVID-19 AND APPROPRIATELY ISOLATE.

DATE OF ORDER: April 7, 2020

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) the Health Officer of the County of Merced orders as follows:

1. Whereas the World Health Organization declared a worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person, and is contained in the droplets that can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals.
2. Whereas today, there are over 1,381, 014 cases in the world and over 78,269 deaths, in California 16,466, confirmed cases and 391 deaths, 34 cases and 1 death in Merced County, and we can expect the number of cases to increase significantly should further action not being taken to decrease the spread of the disease.
3. Whereas there currently is no available vaccination or treatment for this illness, and despite community mitigation measures that decrease the likelihood of being exposed to the droplets of an infected person (including but not limited to restricting large scale events and mass gatherings, staying at home except for performing or receiving essential services, and practicing social distancing) the numbers of cases of this illness continue to increase at increasing rates.
4. Whereas aggressive containment operations including isolating suspect cases and persons under investigation and quarantining their contacts (critical to reducing the spread of the disease and reducing the impacts of the disease on society) are soon to be exceeded in this County.
5. Whereas within the public health system, every person who meets the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) criteria for disease within Merced County has been and will be tested, there are both locally and nationally limited testing capabilities due to availability and number of laboratory test kits and specimen collection kits.
6. Effective, Tuesday, April 7, 2020, the following will be in effect for Merced County.
 - a. Health Care Providers shall:
 - i. On a daily basis report to the Merced County Public Health Department the number of patients seen in their practice with a febrile respiratory illness and the number of those patients tested for COVID-19 AND
 - ii. Direct those patients without an exclusionary diagnosis to isolate him/herself for-seven days after onset of symptoms or for three days after cessation of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (whichever is longer) AND to notify all close contacts to quarantine themselves for 14 days from the last known contact with the patient.
 - b. All Employers shall:
 - i. On a daily basis, while conducting business, screen all employees for febrile respiratory illness;

- ii. Exclude from work all employees that report symptoms of febrile respiratory illness for seven days from the day that they are identified as having symptoms; and
 - iii. Direct employees excluded from work to isolate at home for at least seven days ,AND to notify all close contacts to quarantine themselves for 14 days from the last known contact with the patient.
 - c. All Residents shall:
 - i. Self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19; and
 - ii. Isolate themselves if they have signs and symptoms for seven days after onset of symptoms, unless they should require further medical attention, AND notify their close contacts to quarantine for 14 days.
 - d. All residents are strongly encouraged to wear a cloth face covering whenever they must be out of the home to reduce the spread of the illness from infected individuals that have no symptoms. **This is in addition to the continued requirement of at least 6 feet of social distancing.**
- 6. For the purpose of this order:
 - a. Febrile respiratory illness is defined as "a new or worsening episode of either cough or shortness of breath, presenting with fever (temperature 38 degrees C or 100.4 degrees or higher) or chills in the previous 24 hours;"
 - b. Close contact is defined as someone who has spent 15 minutes or more time within 6 feet or less of the person;
 - c. Isolation is defined as "separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick;"
 - d. Quarantine is defined as "separation and restricting the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease during the illness incubation period."
 - e. Social distancing is defined as "maintain a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members;" and
 - f. Symptoms of COVID-19:
 - i. Fever
 - ii. Cough
 - iii. Shortness of breath
 - g. Cloth face covering is defined as any cloth that can be used to cover as tightly as possible the mouth and nose of the wearer. It is NOT a surgical mask or respirator (which must be reserved for health care professionals in their work treating COVID-19 patients). It should be washed at least daily and the wearer should wash their hands before putting it on and after taking it off. Additionally, the wearer should avoid touching the covering as much as possible while wearing it.
- 7. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may recommend further guidance.

I, as Interim Health Officer for the County of Merced, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer's Order. However, violation of this order is subject to fine, imprisonments or both (California Health and Safety Code Section 120295.)



Kenneth Bird, MD, MPH
Interim Health Officer

**Merced County Department of Public Health
COVID-19 Worship Services Safe Distancing Rules
(Includes Funeral Services Guidance)
During Effective Dates of Stay Safe Health Officer Order
*Approval of this guidance is effective July 2, 2020.***

Note these guidelines provided are the minimum requirements that must be enforced. Churches and other worship facilities are able to develop policies that are more stringent if they feel they are necessary to ensure the health and safety of persons using their facilities or participating in their services.

Churches and faith-based organizations are responsible for ensuring compliance of individuals utilizing their facilities and participating in their services. Follow the Merced County website for the most up-to-date information at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.

In-person Worship Services Allowed with Restrictions

Follow the State's *Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies* Industry Guidance (viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>). Outdoor attendance is limited to a maximum of 100 attendees; a minimum of six feet between attendees from different households is required.

Drive-in Worship Services Allowed with Restrictions

Follow the State's *Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies* Industry Guidance (viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>).

Remote Access Worship Services Allowed with Restrictions

Remote worship services are strongly recommended to assist individuals with the ability to stay at home whenever possible. Remote access to worship services is allowed through e-mail, video streaming, or teleconference.

Follow the State's *Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies* Industry Guidance (viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>).

Faith-based Counselling Allowed with Restrictions

Faith-based counselling can reopen within the following parameters:

1. Counselling services are permissible in-person where the service cannot reasonably be practiced remotely.
2. Counselling services should adopt State guidance on Limited Services, where applicable.
3. This designation does not permit gatherings beyond counselling to members of a single household.

Follow the State's *Limited Services* Industry Guidance (viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf>).

Funeral Services Allowed with Restrictions

No more than 10 persons, including clergy and technical assistance, shall be present at any given time.

Family shall disclose to clergy if decedent is COVID-19 positive.

Follow the State's *Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies* Industry Guidance (viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>).

Merced County Department of Public Health
COVID-19 Golf Safe Distance Rules
During Effective Dates of Stay Safe Health Officer Order

Note these guidelines are a compilation of many clubs' best practices. These are the minimum requirements that must be enforced, along with the *Campgrounds, RV Parks, and Outdoor Recreation* State Industry Guidance viewable at the following link:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-campgrounds.pdf> ; Clubs are able to enforce policies that are more stringent if they feel they are necessary to ensure the health and safety of persons using their facilities.

Clubs are responsible for ensuring compliance of their individuals utilizing their facilities.

Facilities

1. All clubhouse and indoor facilities are and shall remain closed, including, but not limited to the Pro Shop, bar, and in-dining at restaurants.
2. Driving ranges may remain open only if automatic ball cleaners are utilized and a person does not directly conduct the golf ball cleaning.
3. If restrooms remain open, cleaning must be increased to all touch points at least 4 times per day.
4. Check in, if required, must be completed outside, with social distancing of at least 6 feet while both golfer and staff are masked, or through a Plexiglas-type shield.
5. Expand tee time intervals to ensure social distancing.

Persons Allowed on Courses

1. Outdoor areas of golf clubs are open only by tee time appointment for appropriate outdoor activities, including the playing of golf pursuant to COVID-19 Golf Safe Distances Rules.
2. Persons who are symptomatic with cough, fever, or shortness of breath, or are housed with anyone symptomatic are prohibited from being on site until those symptoms have subsided for at least fourteen (14) days. A negative COVID-19 test result does not overrule the recommended quarantine, due to potential testing false negatives.
3. Any person who is quarantined by order of a medical or governmental official is prohibited from being on site until the quarantine is lifted.
4. Except for persons of the same household, persons who drive their vehicle to the site should do so alone and park, if possible, at least one space apart. At all times, those who are not persons of the same household using the course, including parking areas, shall stay at least ten (10) feet away from all other users.
5. Those golfing must have no more than 4 players in any group. Social distancing **MUST** be maintained around the green.

6. Only one person per golf cart.
7. Patrons must wait in their cars until their designated tee times. No social gathering while waiting for the round to begin. Patrons must go directly from hole 18 to their car. No social gathering following the round.
8. Any and all contact with golf course staff, including payment processing, will be done telephonically or electronically, with the exception of check in, if required (see facility rules, above). No cash payments.
9. Limited staff may remain on site for basic facility/grounds maintenance, security, and to ensure compliance with these rules. However, staff must remain 6 feet from all patrons, and wear a mask during interactions.

Equipment

1. No rental clubs or balls may be used and all patrons must bring and use their own equipment.
2. If patrons wish to pick up golf clubs or pull carts from the bag/cart storage, arrangements to do so must be made electronically in advance with staff who will remove the equipment and leave it outside in a designated location. The equipment will not be returned to storage until regular play is resumed (the patrons must then take their equipment with them). This equipment must be the patron's personal equipment.
3. Golf cart rentals should be limited whenever possible, and arranged in advance, electronically or over the phone.
 - a. When possible, if the requesting patron does not have a personal cart, a cart number will be assigned to the requesting patron and that cart shall be used only by that patron and the patron's household during the duration of these rules.
 - b. Golf carts must be picked up and dropped off outside by masked staff maintaining 6 feet or more social distance from any patrons.
 - c. Golf carts must be cleaned and sanitized between each use, and before staff move them back into storage.
 - d. Only one person per golf cart.
4. All rakes, ball washers, and sand bottles must be removed to avoid cross-contamination. If a ball lands in a spot that would otherwise have been raked (e.g. a footprint or divot), the ball can be placed in the nearest undamaged portion of the bunker.
5. The golf cups and flags must be modified to prevent the ball from going into the cup. Flagstick or the base holding the flagstick in place must not be touched or removed. Courses must provide alternative ways to remove balls from holes that do not require human contact, or alternative rules (e.g., putts within two feet are to be conceded to minimize the possibility of contact with the hole and stick.)
6. Except for persons of the same household, players should not touch another player's ball, equipment, or cell phone, including scorecards and pencils.

**Merced County Department of Public Health
COVID-19 Youth Sports/Activities Guidelines
During Effective Dates of Stay Safe Health Officer Order
*Approval of this guidance is effective June 12, 2020.***

Note these guidelines provided are the minimum requirements that must be enforced. Coaches, facilities, and organizations are able to develop policies that are more stringent if they feel they are necessary to ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers, and children using their facilities or participating in their services.

Coaches, facilities, and organizations are responsible for ensuring compliance of individuals utilizing their facilities and participating in their services. Follow the Merced County website for the most up-to-date information at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.

Youth Sports and Activities Allowed with Restrictions

No more than 25 persons, including coaches and parents, shall be present for a practice or class at any given time. Meets/games involving participants or coaches that are not a part of a single team or class are prohibited.

Youth sports waivers for participants shall at a minimum inform parents/guardians of the risks for COVID-19 spread and to request an acknowledgement.

Follow the State's *Day Camp* Industry Guidance* (viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-daycamps.pdf>), and *Fitness Facilities* Industry Guidance for swimming pools and aquatic venues (viewable at the following link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf>) until specific guidance for youth sports/activities is developed by the State and posted at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>.

*Replace the term "day camp" with "youth sports/activities organizer" in the State's *Day Camp* Industry Guidance. Replace the term "camper(s)" with "youth participant(s)" in the State's *Day Camp* Industry Guidance.

It is also required to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Considerations for Youth Sports* (viewable at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>).