



## Office of the County Administrator

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April 17, 2020

Dear Golf Course Owner,

Yesterday, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers directed Department of Health Services Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm to extend the “Safer at Home” order another month. Unfortunately, this occurred without the Governor first consulting with legislative leaders or local government officials without clearly spelling out a viable plan to reopen our economy. This stunning lack of leadership from our Governor and his inability to strike a balance between preserving the physical and economic health of the people of Wisconsin has compounded this crisis. While the health risks COVID-19 poses are serious, it is irresponsible for the Governor to expect the people of this state to continue to stay sheltered in place only to watch the mental health and financial well-being of their families laid to waste. It is important for Wisconsinites to get back to work, and to get outdoors once again. Washington County wants to send this strong message to the Governor and the legislature in Madison.

Therefore, under the powers granted to my office pursuant to 2019 Resolution 69 which was passed by the Washington County Board of Supervisors on March 19, 2020, **I am declaring that public and private golf courses in Washington County may immediately open for business.** Golf courses that choose to open should abide by the restrictions set forth in Emergency Order #28 and other guidance from the PGA.

This decision was made with Washington Ozaukee Health Department Director Kirsten Johnson, who endorses the measures contained in that order as they pertain to the opening of golf courses. Further, I have spoken with Washington County Sheriff Martin Schulteis who has advised that law enforcement will not ticket golfers who choose to return to the greens so long as they are following guidance suggested in EO #28.

It is my greatest hope that soon this crisis will be over and we will be able to resume our daily lives. I strongly urge the Governor to develop a reasonable plan with the input of state and local officials, health care professionals, and business leaders and to present that plan before April 24th.

Washington County plans to release a “Blue Print to Reopen” in accordance with guidance issued yesterday from the White House.

Thank you for all you do for our residents. Together we will beat COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Josh Schoemann  
County Administrator