

PICTON GOLF CLUB

CLOSED FOR THE NEXT 4 WEEKS

A majority of the committee of the Picton Golf Club have voted to close our course for the next four weeks. This was not done lightly but in light of the fact that we are entering Level 4 Alert and told to stay home, this was the only possible outcome for our club. NZ Golf issued the following guidelines this afternoon and stressed the importance of closure. We are allowed a sole worker on the course but that is the only person permitted to be there.

Please follow what has been put in place.

General Guidance from NZ GOLF

As of 11.59 pm on Wednesday 25 March, New Zealand will be at COVID-19 Alert Level 4.

This means New Zealanders not working in essential services must stay at home and stop all interactions with others outside of your household. This is a major step for the country however eradicating this disease is vital to protect people's health and ensure our health system can cope and look after New Zealanders who become sick.

The move to Alert Level 4 has major consequences for the golf sector. From Wednesday 25 March at 11.59pm, all operations at golf clubs must cease for at least four weeks.

This means all golf courses, practice facilities, clubhouses, pro shops, bar, function and catering facilities must now close. While this a major move for the country, the government is trying to save lives and we urge the golf sector to do all we can to play our part.

While there was some thought that on course solo golf activity might be able to continue, providing a controlled environment that is healthy and safe will simply not be possible for all golf courses and facilities.

Regarding the maintenance of golf clubs and facilities during the four-week shut down period, we are working with Sport NZ and the government to seek urgent and critical advice. We understand this advice may be at least 24 hours away.

Until formal advice to the contrary is received, we recommend the golf sector plans to proceed with a cautious approach during the shutdown period. We accept that if golf courses/facilities are not maintained to at least a basic standard over the next four weeks, the task of repatriating to current conditions may not be achievable nor affordable for a great number of clubs. With that in mind, we recommend:

If essential and critical maintenance of golf facilities is deemed necessary, it should only be undertaken in a strictly solo manner (i.e by an individual). During the undertaking of any essential maintenance, all recommended Ministry of Health hygiene practices must be

followed, and strict social distancing must be maintained. This recommendation may well need to be updated if the government issues further advice however for now, we recommend golf clubs/facilities proceed cautiously in this manner.

New Zealand Golf will continue to communicate any updates through our website, social platforms and via direct correspondence.

To keep our solo maintenance person safe, please stay away!!!!

Jenny Hart

President