

**Dear Victorian Golf Clubs and Facilities,**

As you are aware, COVID-19 or the Coronavirus as it is more commonly known has created global health concerns regarding the disease and its infection rates.

Golf Australia is writing to provide further assistance and guidance to our clubs and facilities on this important topic.

### **Government Announcement – September 6, 2020 – Metropolitan Melbourne**

On Sunday, September 6, the Victorian Government announced an extension to the existing Stage 4 lockdown in Metropolitan Melbourne.

The announcement by the Premier of the roadmap by which we will come out of the restrictions, particularly where it pertains to Metropolitan Melbourne, is a significant blow to the golf industry which had hoped to see a return to play sooner rather than later. Clubs/facilities and the community generally, whilst largely appreciating what the state government has planned to achieve with an ultimate position of COVID Normal, will unfortunately continue to be closed for longer than originally forecast consistent with most other parts of the Victorian economy.

Unfortunately, at this time it is likely that golf clubs and facilities in Metropolitan Melbourne must remain closed until the 'Third Step' which is scheduled for October 26, 2020 being subject to trigger points and public health advice. (The trigger points require the daily average number of cases in the last 14 days to be less than 5 state-wide and there are less than 5 cases with an unknown source in the last 14 days)

Throughout COVID-19 Golf Australia has continually engaged with the State Government departments to solicit for and on behalf of clubs and facilities and we are continuing to do so.

We have this morning asked government for clarity on the status of the playing of golf from the 'Second Step' changes to occur on September 28.

Further advice will be provided to golf clubs and facilities as soon as possible.

## **Government Announcement – September 6, 2020 – Regional Victoria**

From 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 13, Regional Victoria will, subject to trigger points, enter the 'Second Step' of the Victorian Government's roadmap to reopening.

Based on advice published by the Victorian Government, Golf Australia advises that:

- Groups of more than two are permitted as long as all players are from no more than two households. This means that two people from one household can play with two people from another household.

Golf Australia has, and continues to, advocate to the Victorian Government for the playing of club competitions, use of practice facilities and use of hire equipment.

### **The role of golf:**

It is critically important that our clubs, facilities, and PGA Members remain vigilant during this time and continue to implement best practice from a hygiene and social distancing perspective at your club/facility. We have now seen the impact that localised lockdowns can have on clubs/facilities in those areas. As a reminder, we would direct you to the State Specific Directive advice for both areas of Victoria, metropolitan & regional. Link is provided below.