On behalf of (your golf course/country club here), thank you providing us with a valuable resource in our town to assist in this time of need. COVID-19’s effects have been far-reaching across all sectors of life.

The golf course industry in Massachusetts was fortunate to have received critical clarification from Bob Antia, ESF-5 Business and Industry Team Lead at Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), as to how we should proceed as a business.

Playing golf at our facility has been deemed non-essential. However, while closed for play, we have been advised that golf courses wishing to continue essential *maintenance* during the shutdown period should contact their local Health Department and/or local government officials for approval.

Our golf course provides environmental, economic, social, and charitable benefits for our community and receiving approval to continue maintenance of our facility’s greatest asset – that being the golf course itself – is critically important at this time. The inability to perform essential maintenance would lead to degradation of property and demise of turfgrass which would be extremely difficult to recover.

To emphasize safety, our golf course maintenance staff have proactively adjusted maintenance practices in many ways, including but not limited to:

* + Increasing communication with owners, management, and staff regarding altered golf course management practices
  + Staggering of staff starting times to reduce employee contact points
  + Keeping 6 ft social distancing at all times throughout the day
  + Eliminating time clocks or assigning one individual the responsibility of punching employees in/out to reduce touch points
  + Increased sanitizing of all workspaces and bathrooms
  + Mandatory wearing of gloves at all times
  + No sharing of utility vehicles
  + Sanitizing all hand tools

We are all in this together as a community. The golf course industry stands with your office and Massachusetts’s public health officials to contain COVID-19. We hope you will endorse our critical need to continue performing essential maintenance at our golf facility during this time.

Respectfully submitted,