Dear Fellow Golfers,

The VSGA shares in your concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on everyday life in Virginia and beyond. The health and wellness of golfers and non-golfers alike is of the highest priority to us and we are certain that it is to you as well.

Although we are all connected by this great game, this historic time helps put things in perspective. The errant drives, flubbed chips shots, and three-putts are not so disheartening. While rewarding, the birdie putt on the last hole to best your opponent is not quite as sweet. If you are among the many who are still playing golf in Virginia, we are asking for your help by applying that perspective now and moving forward.

As you are probably aware, Governor Northam issued Executive Orders on March 23 and March 30. Specifics of these orders, along with many other resources for golfers and clubs, can be found on our COVID-19 resource page on VSGA.org. These orders limit gatherings, force closures of many businesses and order us to remain at our place of residence, with very limited exceptions. As a recreational activity that is a form of exercise and is played outside, golf courses are currently able to remain open to provide this exercise for those who are interested. Our pleas to you today are to practice social distancing while at the golf course, do not gather before, during or after your round, and respect the protocols put in place at the golf course. VSGA events and championships are postponed through at least May 10 as we try to do our part to adhere to the social distancing guidelines set forth by government health officials.

Golf courses around Virginia and allied organizations have done outstanding work to adjust golf operations for this truly unique time. Their outside the box thinking and hard work have allowed those who are interested to continue to play the game that they love. In return, let’s respect these facilities, our fellow Virginians, and the Governor’s orders and do our part to keep us all safe.

At some point, we will be back to playing the game exactly how, where and with whom we would like. Until then, let’s work together to appreciate the benefits the game provides whether you are getting out on the course or just reading Virginia Golfer magazine on your couch! If you are out on the course, we encourage you to enjoy the exercise, outdoors and good shot(s) while staying mindful of what the world is going through and making choices that help bring an end to the spread of this virus.

Stay safe and healthy,

Gary Beck
Virginia State Golf Association
President

Matt Smiley
Virginia State Golf Association
Executive Director