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**Peace Officer Standards and
Training**

March 16, 2020

All Law Enforcement Training Academies

RE: COVID-19

Dear Law Enforcement Training Academy Directors:

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly evolving in Colorado. We expect the number of cases in Colorado to rapidly increase as community transmission becomes more prevalent. States of Emergency have now been declared at the federal, state, and local levels. The situation progressed rapidly over the weekend, with all ski resorts in the state being closed by executive order, numerous law enforcement agencies changing response protocols and canceling in-service training to limit exposure potentials, and the CDC issuing much more restrictive recommendations. One of these recommendations discouraged events of any size when they could not be carried out in adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations and social distancing. The health, safety and well-being of our recruits, academy staff, POST staff, and their respective families is paramount.

After careful and deliberate consideration, we have made the difficult decision to suspend all POST in person training and testing, effective 2359 hrs on Monday, March 16, 2020.

Classroom instruction may therefore only continue if conducted in a live, interactive online format. There must be the ability to share training aids and documents electronically and in real time. Recruits and instructors would need to be displayed on video, with the instructors having the capability of viewing the students at any time to ensure they are participating in the course of instruction. Recruits must be able to ask questions verbally or through a chatroom format. This format should replicate a classroom environment as much as possible in order to comply with Rule 21 requirements of 100% attendance.

All academies are requested to submit a plan to POST for each academy class detailing whether or not they will move classroom instruction to an online format, or if the academy will suspend instruction entirely. If the decision is to move classroom instruction to an online format, the plan should include the methods to be used for compliance to the above stated requirements. The plan for online instruction must be approved by POST staff prior to implementation.

Skills instruction or testing, as well as in person instruction, will not be allowed until further notice.

This decision will be reevaluated weekly, or as new information becomes available.

Once this suspension of POST in person training is lifted, POST staff will work with individual academies on a case-by-case basis on new schedules, with the goal of accelerating training timelines, where possible.

We know that this decision will have wide ranging impacts, not only on the academies, their staff, and recruits, but on law enforcement agencies statewide. It has not been made light heartedly. However, there is no other decision that could be made at this point in time.

Sincerely,

FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik J. Bourgerie', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Erik J. Bourgerie
POST Director