Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services
Regarding: COVID-19 Response
Date: March 23, 2020

As with all State agencies, TCOLE is responding to the potential COVID-19 crisis by modifying delivery of services to best protect our customers and our own employees. These modifications may cause a slow-down in delivery of some non-essential services in order to prioritize for essential services. Please be patient as we try to work through this issue. In order to assist, we would like to supply the following information, which will be continuously updated until the end of the crisis:

1. TCOLE offices are closed to walk-in traffic. Mail deliveries will still be accepted. All call-in and email services will still be available for customers, but waiting times may increase.
2. We will still be accepting and processing all electronic and hard-mailed forms, applications, and training rosters. There may be slight delays in approval of non-essential applications.
3. Basic licensing courses- academies are free to modify timelines and schedules to accommodate their immediate needs. Use of remote, video, or online training to replace the cognitive portions of classroom training may be considered, but only after the academy has submitted their plan of action to TCOLE for approval.
4. The 2019-21 Training Unit and the 2017-2021 Training Cycle will not be extended. There is still more than adequate time to complete required training.
5. Any mandated training which falls due during the crisis period will be extended, but NOT WAIVED. Extension timelines cannot be predicted at this time.
6. Any currently held TCOLE license or certification due to expire during the designated crisis period will be considered by TCOLE to still be valid. At the end of the crisis, definite end dates for those licenses and certifications will be addressed. Examples include Temporary Licenses, Firearms Certifications, Specialty Certificates (School Based LE, Courtroom Security, etc.). Caution- TCOLE cannot control how outside agencies will view an expired license/certification.
7. Appointments (L1’s) which would normally be rejected due to missing training will be approved, if the missing training is required to be taken in a classroom. There will be a process in place to hold the licensee/agency responsible for completing the missing training within 90 days- the training will not be waived. This will also include any reactivation/reinstatements/out-of-state/Federal/military applications, where an agency head will provide written notice that the application and subsequent appointment are immediately necessary. Contact Credentialing for further information.
8. State Licensing Exams will continue to be conducted at our Austin Headquarters, but time and seating are limited, so call and plan ahead. Walk-ins for exams are not accepted.
9. For applications which require fees, TCOLE will temporarily accept personal checks, as well as the money orders, cashier’s checks, and agency checks listed on applications.