

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF**

**PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

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Date: March 18, 2020

Subject: Impact Of The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency On POST Board PPOE Rules And Training Mandates.

1. **Compliance with MN rule 6700.0300 Subp. 8, (A):**
   1. The rule states schools must have a policy that includes a process to identify any preexisting injuries or medical restrictions which may affect their ability to safely participate in the training.
   2. POST recognizes that a doctor’s sign-off has long been the practice for meeting this requirement but this rule does not dictate the process and while it is a sound practice, these are unusual times.
   3. COVID-19 adjustments.
      1. An examination by a PA, RN, would satisfy these requirements as well.
      2. As an alternative, should these other options become equally scarce or unobtainable, Schools may choose to provide a disclosure form to the student so that they may “identify any preexisting injuries or medical restrictions which may affect their ability to safely participate in the training”, with the caveat that once the COVID-19 situation has subsided, the student will be required to seek the medical endorsement as per the school’s past practice.
      3. Schools may want to consider consulting with counsel regarding the wording of such a disclosure.
2. **Compliance with covering learning objectives where class time is shortened or cancelled (Academic portion of the PPOE):**
   1. It is the expectation of POST that learning objectives for a particular PPOE course are met, however;
   2. COVID-19 adjustments:
      1. It is POST’s position that PPOE providers are best able to determine how to cover the required objectives, not only in determining what is critical content but also in terms of delivery method.
      2. POST will rely on the proven creativity and resources of the curriculum delivery experts to offer alternative delivery methods such as online, video-conferencing, etc.
      3. POST will accept any and all of those delivery methods upon completion.
3. **Compliance with covering learning objectives where class time is shortened or cancelled (Skills portion of the PPOE):**
   1. POST recognizes there are portions of the skills program that cannot be taught while employing social distancing, aside from the situation where the skills course is cancelled entirely.
   2. COVID-19 adjustments:
      1. POST has been monitoring how state POST Boards, nation-wide, are addressing the issue with their law enforcement academies. While Minnesota does not have an academy system per se, many of the same concerns and actions apply. Nation-wide, responses have ranged from complete closure, 8 week delays, holding students on site and everything in between.
      2. Because skills is administered by different regional schools and are dealing with different constraints, e.g. number of students, the decisions noted above will be left to the PPOE schools themselves.
      3. The POST Board is NOT waiving any training requirements for the skills portion of PPOE. POST recognizes that this may delay the ability of students to become license eligible and consequently the ability of agencies to hire new officers, however the board believes this is necessary to ensure the safety of the public and future peace officers.
4. **Peace Officer licensing examination:**
   * 1. Pearson Vue, POST’s vendor for administering the licensing exam, has temporarily closed operations at Pearson Professional Centers (PPCs) starting March 16, 2020 until April 16, 2020. Candidates who have scheduled exams during these dates will be notified of their exam cancellation and receive instructions for re-scheduling on or after April 16, 2020.
     2. The POST Board will continue to accept and process applications to take the exam however candidates will not be able to schedule the exam until the PPCs reopen.
5. **Additional Resources:**
   1. For schools licensed by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, the OHE website has established a COVID-19 updates page with guidance for schools and online instruction: <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2390&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery>
   2. For schools with Title IV funding, the U.S. Office of Post-Secondary Education (within the U.S. Department of Education) released a memo on March 5, 2020:  Guidance for interruptions of study related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) [https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fifap.ed.gov%2Felectronic-announcements%2F030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19&data=02%7C01%7Cerik.misselt%40state.mn.us%7Cb993bbb0fda146a1d14a08d7cc11ea19%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637202249621044915&sdata=hyGtd4%2FjQeu9mqxk7ERW5MKCwI8WX68%2FS2xe25z75mc%3D&reserved=0)