



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Criminal Justice Services*

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Good Afternoon,

Several academy directors and agency representatives have reached out to DCJS for guidance on handling the potential challenges to training operations due to concerns around COVID-19.

DCJS recommends that you follow the public health protocols established by your local governments. If a need for deviation from standard training requirements arises due to extraordinary circumstances stemming from COVID-19, please coordinate with your DCJS field representative. DCJS is committed to ensuring that agency and academy operations continue with minimum disruption.


We will work with individual academies and their unique situations on a case-by-case basis through this unprecedented emergency to ensure minimal interruption of mandated training. We will work with you on training extensions and can discuss other training alternatives, including multi-media training delivery (including for basic training), available to your academy. Please contact your field representative to discuss your contingency plans and approval for alternative training plans. Our goal is to ensure that each criminal justice officer meets the compulsory minimum training standards in a healthy training environment.

DCJS is working with state officials and keeping informed about the potential threat COVID-19 may pose. As of now, DCJS is operating as normal. If there are any changes to our operating conditions, DCJS will inform all agencies and academies. DCJS field reps will be available to answer your emails and phone calls as normal.

If you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your DCJS field representative. Our priority is to keep people healthy while respecting the balance with public safety.

Below is a link to the Virginia Department of Health for more information and resources related to COVID-19.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ES', is written over a horizontal line.

Erik Smith  
Acting Director, Law Enforcement