

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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April 2, 2020

Technical Supervisors,

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is greatly affecting the citizens of our state and our nation. These are uncertain times as we are seeing a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases across the State of Texas. Governor Abbott has issued a number of executive orders in an attempt to reduce the spread of the virus. Many communities have implemented Shelter in Place and Stay at Home orders to limit the spread of the virus.

The Office of the Scientific Director has been monitoring the coronavirus pandemic very closely. The health and wellbeing of our Breath Test Operators, Technical Supervisors and the communities that we serve is our top priority. The Office of the Scientific Director has provided information to our Breath Test Operators and Technical Supervisors on providing breath alcohol tests during this pandemic. We recognize the services that we provide as essential because conducting a breath test instead of a blood test will help reduce some of the strain that our medical communities are facing during this time.

Many of our breath testing instruments are located in jails and detention facilities around the state. Most of these facilities are implementing their own safeguards to lessen the spread, which includes screening people entering the facilities, reducing the populations to better practice social distancing as well as increased sanitation of the facilities. Over the last several days there have been reports that some of these facilities are starting to see COVID-19 positive cases within their jail populations.

Over the last several weeks, the Office of the Scientific Director has been evaluating numerous strategies to mitigate the risk of exposure to those that we serve. At this time, we will suspend the practice of the monthly onsite inspections referenced in OSD-TST-01 section 3 until further notice. We are doing this to lessen the risk of exposure to our Technical Supervisors who conduct these inspections at the testing locations. If you receive a call regarding an instrument in need of immediate maintenance, repair or supplies; please contact the Office of the Scientific Director so that we can assist you in assessing the risk at the particular testing site.

As you are aware, we are in challenging times and it is important that we work together to keep each other safe as well as those that we serve. Thank you for the job that you do and the resiliency that you are displaying during this difficult time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevis L. Beckworth".

Trevis L. Beckworth  
Scientific Director  
Texas Breath Alcohol Testing Program