

SAR DOG NEWS

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NSDA has Positive Response to COVID-19 Outbreak.

NSDA regional certification testing has been cancelled due to local and state regulations, park closures, rules regarding gathering of people together and a number of other factors. We realize the hardship this puts on our responders and the stress it causes in our need to respond when we have an uncertified dog.

NSDA is taking positive steps to comply with safety regulations but still permit testing in a reasonable manner. On the second page is a copy of the letter from our President, Adam Kelly to NSDA's membership representing the opinion of our Board of Directors in going forward through this period.

As this change in certification affects others besides members, the *SAR Dog News* has elected to send a special edition to all of our readers.

Read on. . .



Greetings,

The National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA) has been actively monitoring the developments regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. There has been a lot of deliberation and discussion within the Board of Directors over the past two weeks. Initially, we recognized a need for actions to be taken regarding certification testing and the handling of expiring field certifications.

It is apparent that certified teams and their respective communities will have a need for field deployable assets at a time when that will not be conducive to testing and renewal of certifications. As a Board, we initially had decided to extend certifications that were expiring between January 1st, 2020, to May 15th, 2020, until at least May 15th, 2020. It quickly became clear that this was only a stop-gap measure that would not suffice for the events at hand.

Therefore, the NSDA Board of Directors has decided that:

- All NSDA field tests expiring by September 1, 2020, will be extended by one (1) year from the point of their respective expiration dates.
- Individuals with the above identified expiring certification dates will now have a three (3) year certification date.
- If fees have already been paid for a NSDA field test to be taken before September 1, 2020, the fee shall be also extended for one (1) year. Online testing does not have an expiration date and therefore requires no refund or extension.
- NSDA may not support regional testing and discourages small group testing that goes against current or future national, state, or local policies and/or guidelines related to social distancing or other pandemic response measures until at least September 1, 2020.
- All Testing Notification Forms will be reviewed to see if they are eligible for reimbursement of Evaluator expenses.
- Individuals may locate Evaluators from the list on our website. Private arrangements between handler and Evaluator, as always, may be made for NSDA testing.
- NSDA reserves the right to extend this date, depending upon prevailing conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Kelly', written in a cursive style.

Adam Kelly
President, National Search Dog Alliance