



SCOTT A. THOMPSON  
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KEVIN STITT  
Governor

Date: April 24, 2020  
To: Oklahoma Operator Certifications instructors, coordinators, and students  
Re: Operator Certification License Renewal Requirements

Due to the unprecedented threat of the Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has extended the deadline for the requirement of having four (4) hours of training in order to renewal operator certification licenses by July 1, 2020 (the upcoming renewal period) to September 30, 2020.

Late fees will not be assessed for applying for license renewal after July 1, 2020. The grace period that normally exists July 1-31 will be extended through September 30, 2020. We will be monitoring the situation for further adjustments as needed.

We understand and promote the need for social distancing during this period of uncertainty. In March, we took precautions including suspending the review or approval for any training sessions scheduled until May 31, 2020. Today we will begin reviewing May classes in situations where all social distancing requirements and the requirements established by the State of Oklahoma, county and city of the location can be met. The DEQ recommends the postponement of all classes that cannot meet these requirements until the declared State of Emergency has been lifted. The usually six (6) week deadline to turn in Requests to Conduct Training has been shortened to two (2) weeks during this time to assist with getting classes scheduled.

Students that have already been approved for testing can choose to attend their designated class if it is conducted (contact the instructor in advance to verify status of testing), or students can reschedule with no penalty for up to 180 days following the originally scheduled class/test.

Thank you for continuing to take measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. More importantly, thank you for all you do to protect public health and the environment everyday by providing safe drinking water and keeping our recreational waters safe. As the situation evolves, DEQ will continue to make adjustments as needed. If you have questions, please contact Chris Wisniewski at (405) 702-8180 or [Chris.Wisniewski@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Chris.Wisniewski@deq.ok.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shellie R. Chard".

Shellie R. Chard, Director  
Water Quality Division

