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Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

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Brad Loveless, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

30 August, 2021

Dear Hunter Education Instructors:

In order to comply with the [Updated State Agency Guidance – Covid-19 Delta](#) provided by the Kansas Department of Administration, dated August 25, 2021, **all traditional and internet-assisted hunter education classes scheduled to begin after the close of business on Friday, September 3, 2021, through October 4, 2021 are suspended**. This decision will be reassessed in late September, at which time a determination will be made as to whether to resume in-person Hunter Education Classes. Hunter Education offered as part of a school curriculum in districts who are attending in-person classes are excluded from this suspension.

We know that this decision is a disappointment, but in every conversation as we've deliberated the alternatives, we return to the purpose of Hunter Education in Kansas:

To produce safe, knowledgeable, responsible, and legal hunters.

Our Hunter Education program provides the training necessary for all who wish to hunt or fur harvest in Kansas, and we value our volunteer instructors, who have certified nearly 500,000 students since 1973, making hunting in Kansas one of the safest outdoor activities you can enjoy.

Our instructors are the life-blood and foundation of this program, and they are vitally important to the program's future success.

To that end, your safety, and the safety of our future hunters is our top priority. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, it remains an increasingly difficult challenge to gather in person, as well as to maintain social distancing and masking requirements – while maintaining a safe and effective learning environment in our Traditional and Internet-assisted classes.

While classes are suspended, individuals 16 or older may purchase a two-time purchase deferral of the Hunter Education requirements by purchasing an Apprentice hunting license. Apprentice hunting license holders must hunt under the supervision of a licensed hunter age 18 or older.

- Apprentice hunting licenses may be purchased at any Kansas license vendor, and online at kshuntfishcamp.com.
- Hunter Education Certification issued by any state, Canadian Province, or some foreign jurisdictions are deemed to meet the requirements of Kansas Law.

While an online solution will never replace the mentorship and personal connections developed in an in-person class, more and more hunters seek online certification opportunities in order to avoid exposure to Covid-19 during an in-person event. Online Hunter Education is already being successfully offered by several other states, and we are working diligently to provide an online Hunter Education course to Kansans over the next few weeks:

- The National Rifle Association (NRA) offers an online Hunter Education course that is approved by the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) - USA, based on their standards. The online option meets all

five IHEA standards: Personal responsibility, hunting laws, regulations and wildlife identification, safe firearm field practices, safe firearm handling, and hunter's roles in conservation and will provide an excellent opportunity for us to expand our Hunter Education course offerings.

- Becoming a certified hunter online allows the learner to do so at their own pace and review information or re-take modules as needed.
- The course includes animations, quizzes and videos, making it the most interactive online hunter education option available.
- The pause-and-return option in the course allows a flexible learning environment to fit the needs of the individual.
- This online option improves accessibility for people with different learning styles, people who are disabled, or those who cannot attend an in-person class or field-day for health reasons.

We know that asking you to stop doing what you do best, even for 30 days, is a tremendous ask – and we're not taking it lightly. Right now, we're doing everything we can to keep our instructors, future hunters, and staff safe, and we look forward to the day when we can all be together, again.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Mounts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Mounts

Director of Licensing & Education

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

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