



## Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon

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September 14, 2020

**RE: APAO Training Program Changes – COVID-19**

Dear Members and Industry Partners:

This letter is to address APAO training program changes due to COVID-19. We have carefully considered the applicable restrictions and resources, and made changes to balance technician safety and education.

- Course size will be limited to ensure that technicians can maintain social distancing during class, breaks, exams, and in APAO laboratories.
- Because the APAO training program is funded through technician tuition and there will be fewer technicians that can participate in courses, tuition has increased to the extent needed to cover known costs.
- Technicians must wear face coverings at all times indoors and outdoors where six feet physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Technicians with COVID-19 symptoms are prohibited.
- APAO will follow all applicable cleaning and disinfection requirements.
- Technicians will be encouraged to practice good hygiene and will be informed of best practices when necessary.


We know limiting course size and increasing tuition will be a hardship for some companies and technicians. We explored different options, but those options would not provide the best balance between safety and training quality. Our plan will ensure a safe learning environment and provide ample access to instructors and critical hands-on laboratory training.

To be clear, we are committed to increasing course size and reducing tuition and as soon as is reasonably possible. APAO is a non-profit trade association and we do not intend to “make money” from training tuition. However, we cannot provide quality training with fewer students without additional tuition income. We are hopeful that the restrictions will be lifted and we will be able to return to normal course sizes and historical rates.

**We will do everything we can to safely provide training to technicians who need certifications and encourage members to contact us with any concerns.**

APAO takes pride in partnering with ODOT to deliver a training program that has produced a knowledgeable workforce with technicians who know how to best react when issues occur during production. The program is one of the best in the Country, and our dues and costs are among the lowest of all state pavement associations – that is because of your participation. We appreciate every member and thank you for continuing to support APAO.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Hickey, P.E., Esq.  
Executive Director