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Dear Licensees and Stakeholders,

The Department of Revenue (DOR) Division of Racing Events is aware that this is an especially stressful time for business owners and employees, given the uncertainties that COVID-19 poses locally, nationally, and internationally. At this moment, it is critical that all of us as stakeholders acknowledge the single most important interest we all value - public health and safety. We have a duty to protect all Coloradans.

Governor Polis, through Public Health Order 20-22 issued by the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, ordered the closure of all Colorado state-licensed bars, restaurants, and casinos. This closure took place on March 17, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. MDT. Most Off Track Betting facilities are subject to the Order by virtue of holding one of those licenses. As the spirit of the Order is to limit the gathering of crowds and to foster a state policy of social-distancing, the closure of all Off Track Betting facilities harmonizes with the Order's intent to promote these goals.

We want to assure you that we hear your concerns. We are actively contemplating your questions, and we greatly appreciate your suggestions and ideas. We also know that we will successfully navigate this unprecedented episode of unpredictability and ambiguity if we're in partnership with each other.

Please know that DOR leadership is engaged in ongoing and intensive consultation with key decision-makers and resources, including the Governor's Office and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This dialogue helps ensure alignment with mandates for health and wellness, and that we're attempting to be responsive to your challenges.

DOR recognizes that at moments like this, our support to licensees can be crucial. As a result, the Division of Racing Events remains open for business. The only modification is that commencing on Wednesday, March 18, the Division of Racing Events offices will be closed for 30 days, and we will deliver services remotely without the in-person option at our offices. Our ability to continue to serve you is absolutely dependent on the health of our staff, and we think we can improve the likelihood of their availability if they focus on communication with you and the public via email, phone, and US mail. You will continue to have the full range of Division of Racing Events services available via Egov, email, mail-in and drop-off options at our Racing office.

Communication is key for all of us at this time. Please reach out to me, Donia Amick, at <u>Donia.Amick@state.co.us</u>, AIC Ed Kulp at <u>Edwin.Kulp@state.co.u</u>, or the Racing mainline at 303-866-6743.

We will work hard to keep you apprised of evolving challenges and requirements for continued operations in line with local, state, and federal guidelines. In the meantime, we look forward to continued engagement, open communication, and mutual support.