MEMORANDUM

TO: POST COMMANDERS
    DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
    DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN
    COUNTY COMMANDERS
    PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

FROM: JOHN D. BAKER, DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

SUB: COVID 19 UPDATE

Last night, March 19th, the State Director of Emergency Management sent out Administrative Order 2020-2, which is an addition to Executive Order 104, from Governor Murphy on March 16th. This order adds additional facilities to be shut down to the public in conjunction with Executive Order 104. American Legion, VFW, and facilities of similar organizations are part of this new shut down.

In consultation with our Leadership, and in keeping with The American Legion’s commitment to the safety of our Veterans and communities, all NJ Legion Posts are shut down until further notice. Post Commanders, Finance Officers, and Membership Chairmen may individually continue to conduct business at the post.

Please remember that you are subject to Local, County, State, and Federal laws and orders. If you are found to be in violation of any of these, you will be subject to proper penalties.

Please continue your Buddy Checks and continue to check on others, especially the elderly, within your community.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time in our history and for upholding the Four Pillars of The American Legion.
WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, through Executive Order No. 103, the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, the Governor declared both a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency throughout the State due to the public health hazard posed by Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, to further protect the health, safety, and welfare of New Jersey residents by, among other things, reducing the rate of community spread of COVID-19, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 104 (2020) on March 16, 2020, the facts and circumstances of which are also adopted by reference herein, which established statewide social mitigation strategies for combatting COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 104 established that certain facilities including casinos, racetracks, gyms, fitness centers, movie theaters, performing arts centers, other concert venues, nightclubs, and other entertainment centers, while vital to the economic health of the State, are also locations where large numbers of individuals gather in close proximity; and

WHEREAS, suspending operations at these businesses is part of the State’s mitigation strategy to combat COVID-19 and reduce the rate of community spread; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 104 (2020), the Governor ordered closed as of 8:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020, certain facilities to members of the public
including casino gaming floors, racetracks, gyms and fitness centers, and entertainment centers; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph 7 of Executive Order No. 104 (2020), Governor Murphy granted the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, the discretion to make additions, amendments, clarifications, exceptions, and exclusions to the list of facilities closed to members of the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patrick J. Callahan, State Director of Emergency Management, hereby ORDER as follows:

1. The following facilities are added to the list of facilities closed to members of the public in accordance with paragraph 7 of Executive Order No. 104 (2020).

   a. Facilities where personal care services are performed that, by their very nature, result in noncompliance with social distancing guidelines, including but not limited to cosmetology shops; barber shops; beauty salons; hair braiding shops; nail salons; electrology facilities; spas, including day spas and medical spas, at which solely elective and cosmetic medical procedures are performed; massage parlors, tanning salons, tattoo parlors, and public and private social clubs, whether or not they serve alcohol, including but not limited to facilities owned or operated by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Knights of Columbus, and any other social clubs associated with community service organizations.

   b. Health facilities that provide medically necessary or therapeutic services are exempted from this directive.
2. This ORDER shall take effect immediately, and the facilities listed above are ORDERED closed to members of the public effective at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2020. These facilities shall remain closed to the public for as long as Executive Order No. 104 (2020) remains in effect.

March 19, 2020

Colonel Patrick J. Callahan
State Director of Emergency Management