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JRA Statement Regarding Remote Testing During the Coronavirus Crisis

The national and local response to the COVID-19 epidemic has required all of us to make significant changes to our daily lives and our business practices during this national emergency. Psychologists who use JRA products are mental health providers that also serve public safety agencies. Police and public safety psychologists are being asked by their client agencies to continue performing essential services such as preemployment screening and fitness for duty evaluations during this emergency, including in those jurisdictions where a "Shelter in Place" order has been issued.

Obstacles to normal assessment practice due to COVID-19: The medically recommended practice of social distancing poses obvious problems for our normal assessment practice of in-person proctored testing and face-to-face psychological interviews.

In light of the current pandemic, we have received numerous requests to enable remote proctored testing. While we strongly support in-person proctoring of psychological testing as a best practice, we have developed methods to allow you to continue to provide essential assessment services for the duration of the current crisis.

Maintaining Test Security During Remote Testing

Many police and public safety psychologists have already transitioned to conducting the interview portion of the assessment process using a videoconference technology such as Zoom. However, screening psychologists are now being notified by their client agencies that applicants will no longer be administered the testing portion of the process at the agency. In addition, most psychologists' offices are not large enough to test-in-place while minimizing contact with other applicants, and our staff personnel. The result is that if we cannot provide a proctored test administration environment the entire assessment function will come to a standstill.

If you choose to begin remote testing during this current crisis, we strongly encourage you to use one of the telehealth platforms to proctor the test administration by video. While not as desirable as in-person proctoring, video-monitored proctoring is a useful means of maintaining some level of test security and protocol validity while adhering to guidelines on social distancing.

The JRA online test platform is already capable of administering the CPI, PAI, STAXI, PsyQ, and PHQ remotely. In response to the COVID-19 crisis we have developed a procedure to send your testing administrator a randomly generated password that will renew at regular intervals of your choosing (for example, 3 hours or 24 hours). In this way, test security is protected by preventing applicants from later accessing the test protocols under fictitious names. We recommend setting the duration of the password to be less than the average time of your

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standard test battery. We have also implemented additional technical controls that prevent applicants from printing the test website or cutting-and-copying text from the testing website.

A typical video monitored proctoring could be implemented as follows: The test administrator contacts applicants and schedules a remote test appointment for a group of applicants (we have seen up to 8 applicants capable of being monitored by an administrator using group video proctoring). Prior to the appointment start time for the proctored testing the applicants are provided a strongly worded legal statement warning them about copyright protection and accessing non-test materials during test administration. They should be required to sign and return this signed document prior to testing (via fax or email) and these instructions should also be read to them using the video link prior to starting the test administration. When all of the applicants are signed on and have been given instructions, the administrator can provide them with the current, active password for the JRA test battery. Because the password should be set to cycle frequently, it will no longer be active by the time the applicants have completed the test battery.

Using this suggested practice of video monitored test proctoring will allow you to receive test reports immediately upon completion of the protocols by the applicants. Once you have reviewed the reports the applicants can be interviewed using a videoconference platform like Zoom, right away or at a later time.

If you would like to adopt the remote test administration capabilities of the JRA platform, or discuss it in more detail, please contact the JRA office or Ryan Roberts for additional information and instructions.

Sincerely,

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