COVID-19 UPDATES
ADA Department of Testing Services (DTS)
April 10, 2020

*** BREAKING NEWS ****

DLOSCE. The JCNDE has announced that the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) will be released in 2020, with a target release date of June 15, 2020.

NBDE Part I Discontinuation. On April 10, 2020, the JCNDE announced that it would be extending the discontinuation date of the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Part I to October 31, 2020 for ALL qualified dental candidates (i.e., regardless of whether or not they were trained by CODA-accredited dental programs). See the Examination Eligibility section for more details.

ECE. As of March 24, 2020, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) has temporarily suspended operations, including the production of all evaluation reports. See the Examination Eligibility section for more details.

Pearson VUE and Prometric. As of March 16, 2020 Pearson VUE has closed all company owned testing centers in the US and Canada. As of March 18, 2020, all Prometric testing centers have been closed in the US and Canada. Please see the section entitled Test Administration Vendors for more details.

About this Document

This document presents the latest available information concerning the impact of COVID-19 on examination programs implemented by the ADA’s Department of Testing Services (DTS), on behalf of governing bodies such as the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE), the ADA Board of Trustees, the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL), and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). This document will be updated regularly. Please check back daily for updates. Changes to this document are also noted on the final page of this document, for ease of review.

DTS Approach to COVID-19

The Department of Testing Services (DTS) understands the growing concerns that are emerging regarding COVID-19 and its implications for each of us. In response to these concerns, DTS wishes to affirm that—regardless of whether you are a student, a test constructor, a volunteer leader, an ADA member, an ADA non-member, a staff member, a vendor, a member of the public, or whomever—safety is of utmost importance. In this challenging time, DTS is striving to be as responsive as possible as the situation evolves, to help ensure that we are appropriately prioritizing the aforementioned safety considerations, while also permitting important work to continue.
Safety Considerations

Please follow all CDC recommendations regarding personal healthy and community safety. Please be vigilant and do so at all times. DTS will continue to follow these recommendations to help protect the health and well-being of all. Please visit the American Dental Association’s COVID-19 web page, which serves as a Coronavirus Resource Center for oral health care professionals.

Examination Administrations

DTS staff are operating at full capacity and are available to assist with any testing questions or issues. However, staff is not currently available to answer questions by phone. Please contact staff via email or by clicking the GET HELP button on the right side of most DTS web pages.

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Candidates who are unable to travel for an examination due to illness, increased travel restrictions, or concerns regarding personal health must email testingproblems@ada.org, providing the candidate’s DENTPIN and an explanation of the situation.

Examination Eligibility

- As of March 15, 2020, eligibility changes will be applied to candidates completing examinations under the purview of the following governing bodies:
  - Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE)
    - NBDE Part I, NBDE Part II, NBDHE
  - ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL)
    - DAT and ADAT
  - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)
    - OAT
- The following eligibility changes apply to candidates who are completing examinations of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE):
  - In recognition of the current limitations on testing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for discontinuation of the NBDE Part I for ALL qualified candidates will be extended to October 31, 2020. This extension is available regardless of where qualified candidates received their dental training (i.e., from CODA-accredited dental programs, or from non-CODA-accredited dental programs). Qualified candidates are those who meet NBDE Part I eligibility requirements.
  - Candidate eligibility windows for all other JCNDE tests will be extended through December 31, 2020.
Applications with assigned eligibility windows beginning on July 1 or later will be assigned the standard 6-month window of eligibility. That window of eligibility will not be extended unless candidates complete an online extension request.

The JCNDE is maintaining the current launch date for the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE) (August 1, 2020).

The JCNDE is maintaining the current NBDE Part II discontinuation date (July 31, 2022).

The JCNDE will continue to monitor the situation to determine if any changes are needed.

With regard to the DAT, ADAT, and OAT, eligibility changes will proceed as follows:
  - All candidates whose test administration eligibility window is set to expire between March 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020, will have their administration window extended through July 1, 2020.
  - The situation will be monitored to determine if further extensions are needed.

Important Note for ALL Candidates Trained by Non-CODA-Accredited Training Programs

- As of March 24, 2020, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) has temporarily suspended operations, including the production of all evaluation reports.
- Until the ECE resumes operations, candidates trained by non-CODA-accredited programs will be unable to meet eligibility requirements for the Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT), National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE), and National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE).
- Visit https://www.ece.org/ for more information.

Test Administration Vendors (Prometric and Pearson VUE)

Prometric

The information below concerns candidates who are taking the following examinations:
  - Dental Admission Test (DAT)
  - Optometry Admission Test (OAT)
  - National Board Dental Examination (NBDE) Parts I and II

As of March 18, 2020, all Prometric testing centers have been closed in the US and Canada. On April 10, 2020, Prometric informed DTS that closures would continue until May 1, 2020. Candidates may continue to schedule appointments. Prior to their scheduled test date, all displaced test takers will receive an email notification that their appointment has been canceled, including instructions on next steps to reschedule their appointment, if applicable. Prometric will be monitoring the situation closely, and will provide updates accordingly.

For additional information on Prometric’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including updates on test center closures, please visit Prometric Coronavirus Update.
Pearson VUE
The information below concerns candidates who are taking the following examinations:
  o Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT)
  o National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)

As of April 6, 2020 Pearson VUE has closed all company owned testing centers in the US and Canada through April 30, 2020. Candidates scheduled between April 16 and April 30 will receive a cancellation/reschedule notice. Candidate appointment availability begins on May 1.

For additional information on Pearson VUE’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including updates on test center closures, please visit Pearson Vue Coronavirus Update.

Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (DLOSCE)

- The JCNDE has announced that the Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE) will be released in 2020, with a target release date of June 15, 2020.
- The JCNDE intends to conduct webinars in upcoming weeks, to share details and answer questions from stakeholders and communities of interest. These webinars will begin with dental boards, and will then continue with dental educators and dental students. The first webinar is planned for mid-April 2020.
- Additional details concerning this exciting new examination program are available on the DLOSCE website, with more information coming soon.

Scoring of Candidate Results
No scoring delays are currently present.

Reporting of Candidate Results
No reporting delays are currently present.

Test Construction Team (TCT) Meetings

Where possible, for the near future, DTS will transition from conducting in-person TCT meetings, to conducting remote TCT meetings that take place via web conferencing software. DTS will provide additional information to test constructors shortly.

DTS will continue to update this document as the situation changes. As noted above, please follow all CDC recommendations regarding personal health and community safety.


Change Log


3/20/2020  Significant updates to the Examination Eligibility section; inclusion of excerpt from Prometric communication; minor changes to the sequence of presented information in the Test Administration Vendors section, for ease of reading; creation of a Change Log to facilitate review of changes to this document.

4/2/2020    Updates to the Breaking News and Examination Eligibility sections; notification of release of the DLOSCE; notification of suspension of operations of Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE); extension of NBDE Part I discontinuation date to 10/31/2020 for candidates trained by CODA accredited dental programs.

4/7/2020    Update to Test Administration Vendors section (Pearson VUE).

4/10/2020  Update to Test Administration Vendors section (Prometric). Significant updates to the Examination Eligibility section regarding the extension of the NBDE Part I for all candidates.