

**COVID-19 UPDATES**  
**ADA Department of Testing Services (DTS)**  
**October 14, 2020**

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 is updated regularly. Changes to this document are also noted on the final page of this document, for ease of review.

**DTS staff are operating at full capacity and are available to assist with any testing questions or issues.** Please contact staff via phone, email or by clicking the **GET HELP** button on the right side of most DTS web pages.

ADAT	<a href="mailto:adatexam@ada.org">adatexam@ada.org</a>
DAT	<a href="mailto:datexam@ada.org">datexam@ada.org</a>
OAT	<a href="mailto:oatexam@ada.org">oatexam@ada.org</a>
NBDE Part I NBDE Part II INBDE NBDHE	<a href="mailto:nbexams@ada.org">nbexams@ada.org</a>
DLOSCE	<a href="mailto:dlosce@ada.org">dlosce@ada.org</a>

Read this document in full for the most up-to-date information regarding your testing program, or click on a subject below for more information.

**[Breaking News](#)**

New information of significance to candidates and test users concerning examination programs implemented by DTS.

**[Safety Considerations](#)**

General information, updates, and recommendations based on current CDC guidelines.

**[General Information on Examination Administrations](#)**

Details pertaining to all examination programs regarding appointments, cancellations, and other information.

**[Program Modifications](#)**

Specific updates for each individual examination program.

**[Prometric Testing Center Policies and Procedures](#)**

Prometric administers the DAT, OAT, NBDE Parts I and II, INBDE, and DLOSCE.

**[Pearson VUE Testing Center Policies and Procedures](#)**

Pearson VUE administers the ADAT and NBDHE.

Please follow all [CDC recommendations](#) regarding personal health and community safety. Visit the [American Dental Association's COVID-19 web page](#), which serves as a Coronavirus Resource Center for oral health care professionals.

## **Breaking News**

\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* In anticipation of the upcoming flu season and potential increase in restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, **DTS recommends that candidates who plan to test during the upcoming winter and early spring months consider submitting their application and scheduling a testing appointment as soon as possible.** Planning ahead will provide candidates with the best selection of available testing appointments.

On October 7, 2020, the JCNDE voted to change the DLOSCE fee for 2021, which had previously been set at \$1,650. The DLOSCE will now be administered for a total fee of \$800 in 2021, to assist students in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The NBDE Part I discontinuation date has been extended to December 31, 2020 for ALL qualified candidates.

## **Safety Considerations**

DTS strongly recommends all candidates schedule and take their examinations as soon as possible to avoid possible test center restrictions as we move into flu season and as the pandemic continues to take its toll.

## **General Information on Examination Administrations**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, DTS has worked closely with our testing vendors – Pearson VUE and Prometric – to ensure candidates are able to take admissions and licensure examinations on time in safe testing environments.

All DTS examinations are considered essential programs by Prometric and Pearson VUE. This designation allows candidates to sit for their examinations as long as the testing center is open and appointments are available to candidates.

Candidates may find it helpful to keep checking the testing vendor's website for earlier appointments, as availability is changing regularly as states reopen and expand services. Candidates should also not forget to check for available appointments for openings that are quite soon; late cancellations by candidates testing in other programs can result in open seats. 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](mailto:testingproblems@ada.org), providing the candidate's DENTPIN and an explanation of the situation.

There are no current delays to scoring or reporting of candidate results.

## **Program Modifications**

**ADAT:** No specific changes at this time. Please see the [ADAT web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

**DAT:** No specific changes at this time. Please see the [DAT web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

**OAT:** No specific changes at this time. Please see the [OAT web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

**NBDE PART I:** The deadline for discontinuation of the NBDE Part I for ALL qualified candidates has been extended to December 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.

Please see the [NBDE web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

**NBDE PART II:** The requirement that the NBDE Part II be administered on consecutive days has been suspended. Candidates taking the NBDE Part II can now schedule the second day of testing within 14 days of their first day of testing.

Please see the [NBDE web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

**NBDHE:** Short-form administrations of the NBDHE can now be scheduled and completed. These forms require less than four hours to complete, and are available for administration at Pearson Professional Centers located throughout the US. More information can be found on the [NBDHE Quick Facts](#) and [Short-Form FAQs](#).

Please see the [NBDHE web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

**INBDE:** The INBDE launched on August 1, 2020. Testing appointments are now available.

Please see the [INBDE web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

**DLOSCE:** Candidates are currently able to schedule an appointment for upcoming DLOSCE testing windows:

- November 9 – 27, 2020
- April 1 – May 4, 2021

The number of test centers capable of administering the DLOSCE has expanded substantially, and continues to grow. A list of Prometric testing centers available for the DLOSCE is available on the DLOSCE website. Candidates are invited to continue to review this list to locate a convenient test center.

The following states have adopted regulations which permit the acceptance of the DLOSCE: Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Oregon, and Washington. In some states, passage of the DLOSCE only partially fulfills the clinical examination requirement for licensure. Please refer to each dental board's website for specific details, clarifications, and updated policies, and any additional testing that may be required in each state.

The JCNDE would like to assist those in the military services who are interested in challenging the DLOSCE, but are finding it difficult to do so given scheduling conflicts involving the DLOSCE testing windows and officer training requirements (e.g., ODS). Individuals in this situation are encouraged to contact the Department of Testing Services (DTS) at [testingproblems@ada.org](mailto:testingproblems@ada.org). DTS will work with these individuals to

coordinate DLOSCE administrations outside of the standard testing windows indicated above.

Please see the [DLOSCE web pages](#) for additional details and to register for a testing appointment.

### **Prometric Testing Center Policies and Procedures**

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
- Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination (DLOSCE)
- The Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE)

Based on the most up-to-date information, Prometric has resumed in-center testing where possible in the U.S. and Canada. Rescheduling fees are in place and are incurred in accordance with established program policies. Candidates who need reimbursement for rescheduling an appointment due to COVID-19 illness or impact should follow Prometric's standard escalation procedure, detailed on the [Prometric website](#).

Prometric continues to require candidates and test center staff to wear masks/face-covering while in the test center. Please note that masks with exhale valves will not be permitted in the test center; this is reflected in the test center policies, available on the Prometric website and referenced in candidate confirmation emails and calls.

For specific information related to Prometric testing appointments, test centers or policies, please visit the [Prometric website](#). Candidates should visit the [Prometric website](#) for a list of current [open centers](#); this list may not be comprehensive. DTS staff does not have information regarding the open or closed status of specific test centers. Candidates are also invited to view a video on [What to Expect on Test Day](#).

Prometric has provided the following resources to assist candidates:

- [COVID-19 Strategies](#): provides the most current information on Prometric's operation status and safety measures.
- [Site Openings List](#): provides a running list of Prometric's current open/scheduled-to-open sites and their resumption test date. This list is updated daily to reflect any changes in status, and is evaluated for further additions on a rolling basis.
- [Social Distancing Policies](#): provides a detailed look at Prometric standard and social distancing policies, as well as procedural modifications that candidates are expected to follow while at the test center.
- [Test-Taker FAQ](#): provides answers to frequently asked questions.

### **Pearson VUE Testing Center Policies and Procedures**

The information below concerns candidates who are taking the following examinations:

- Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT)
- National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)

**Testing centers are open in all states.** Due to the ongoing pandemic, governments may at any time reinstate measures limiting operations in testing centers. Pearson VUE continues to monitor the situation and available recommendations, and will adjust testing capacity and/or

operations accordingly. These adjustments may require additional cancellations of candidate appointments. **Candidates should refer to the [Pearson Vue Coronavirus Update](#) webpage for the most updated information regarding test centers in specific states.**

Pearson VUE has outfitted all test centers with health and safety necessities, such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant, etc., so that operations can continue. Additionally, all candidates are required to wear a face mask and respect social distancing requirements. Pearson VUE monitors restrictions and makes adjustments as necessary.

For specific information related to Pearson VUE testing appointments, test centers or policies, please visit the [Pearson VUE website](#). DTS staff does not have information regarding the open or closed status of specific test centers.

## Change Log

- 3/17/2020 Initial release of the DTS “COVID-19 Updates” document.
- 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.
- 4/27/2020 Update to the *Examination Eligibility* section regarding an extended administration window for ADAT, DAT, and OAT candidates. Relabeled this section “*Examination Eligibility and Program Modifications*” and provided additional program modification information within this section. Update to the *Test Administration Vendors* section concerning test center openings.
- 4/30/2020 Update to the *Test Administration Vendors* section regarding Pearson VUE reopening schedules and personal protection requirements for candidates.
- 5/7/2020 Update to the *Test Administration Vendors* section regarding Prometric and Pearson VUE testing centers. Two DLOSCE webinars were announced.
- 5/21/2020 Update to the *Test Administration Vendors* section regarding Prometric and Pearson VUE testing centers. Specific updates to the NBDHE program were shared. Links to DLOSCE webinar recordings were provided.
- 5/26/2020 Update to the *Test Administration Vendors* section regarding Prometric testing centers. Additional links to DLOSCE webinar recordings were provided.
- 5/28/2020 Update to the *DLOSCE* section regarding the application for 2020 testing appointments.
- 6/18/2020 Updates were made to every section of this document. Key changes include the release of the DLOSCE and news concerning the release of the short-form-NBDHE.
- 6/25/2020 Updates were made to the *Test Administration Vendors* section regarding appointment availability at Prometric and Pearson VUE testing centers. Updates were made to the *DLOSCE* section regarding 1) states that currently accept the DLOSCE for licensure purposes, and 2) testing for those in the military.

- 7/16/2020 Updates were made to the *Test Administration Vendors* section regarding the Prometric policy on rescheduling fees. Updates were also made to this section regarding appointment availability at Pearson VUE testing centers. The INBDE has been added to various areas within this document.
- 7/30/2020 Updates were made to all sections of this document. Updates were made to the *Test Administration Vendors* section regarding availability at Pearson VUE testing centers. Previous versions of this report stated that Prometric would reinstate its cancellation and rescheduling fees on August 1, 2020; that date has been changed to August 3, 2020, and the new date is now reflected in this document. The first DLOSCE testing window has closed. The short-form-NBDHE is now available for administration.
- 9/4/2020 Updates were made to the layout of this document.
- 10/9/2020 Updates were made to the DLSOCE fee for 2021 and DLOSCE testing dates; candidates are now able to schedule appointments during two testing windows.
- 10/14/2020 Updates were made to the *Breaking News* section of this document, recommending that candidates plan ahead in light of the upcoming flu season and potential increases in restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.