**COVID-19 UPDATES**
ADA Department of Testing Services (DTS)
May 21, 2020

*** BREAKING NEWS ****

**Pearson VUE and Prometric.** Pearson VUE and Prometric have opened test centers in compliance with state orders. Please see the section entitled *Test Administration Vendors* for more details.

**ADAT, DAT and OAT Eligibility.** As of April 21, 2020, all candidates whose eligibility for the ADAT, DAT and OAT is set to expire between March 15, 2020 and December 30, 2020 will have their administration window extended through December 31, 2020. See the *Examination Eligibility and Program Modifications* section for more details.

**ECE.** As of April 21, 2020, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) has resumed operations. See the *Examination Eligibility and Program Modifications* section for more details.

**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. Two webinars have been announced for dental students and dental administrators and faculty. Please see the DLOSCE section for more information.

**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 and Program Modifications* section 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 is updated regularly. 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 and Program Modifications

- 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 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).
- DTS has lifted the requirement for the NBDE Part II to be administered on consecutive days. Candidates taking the NBDE Part II can schedule the second day of testing within 14 days of their first day of testing.
- The JCNDE continues to investigate options to assist the dental hygiene community in a challenging time. Based in part on feedback from Pearson VUE, DTS staff are currently working to provide an alternate NBDHE administration schedule. This involves an option to split the NBDHE administration session into two parts, to make it easier for candidates to find openings (as opposed to requiring candidates find a single, 9-hour continuous block of time). The latter option is anticipated to be available in June.
- 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 December 30, 2020 will have their administration window extended through December 31, 2020.
  - Candidates should monitor websites of training programs to which they intend to apply, to ensure timely submission of application materials and test results.
  - 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 April 21, 2020, Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) has resumed operations. Candidates trained by non-CODA-accredited programs who are interested in applying for the Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT), National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE), and National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) should visit [https://www.ece.org/](https://www.ece.org/) for more information.

**Test Administration Vendors (Prometric and Pearson VUE)**

Candidates planning to apply to take an examination and schedule their administration should try to do so as soon as possible to avoid further delays. Candidates should be aware that on June 1, Prometric and Pearson VUE will be opening up currently available seats to candidates who are taking examinations involving services considered non-essential (i.e., as opposed to reserving those seats for candidates taking examinations involving essential services). Whether or not your examination program was affected by this status, please note that a large influx of candidate from a large array of professions and programs will soon be eligible for testing appointments.
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

Prometric has released the following updates regarding all company owned testing centers in the US and Canada:
- **On April 22, 2020,** Prometric announced that testing center closures would continue until May 31, 2020 with the exception of limited essential services programs. The DAT, OAT, Part I, and Part II are considered essential testing programs by Prometric. Candidates should visit the Prometric website for a list of current closed centers and 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 who are scheduled to test starting on May 1st will be informed of the test center policies currently in place, to ensure compliance and provide an understanding of what they can expect.
- Prometric will implement revised scheduling policies that will look a minimum of two weeks into the test center schedules to identify any appointments that need to be rescheduled due to social distancing policies or site opening status and will process those rescheduling transactions. Candidates who have an appointment in the first two weeks of June and need to be displaced due to site/state availability will be notified shortly.
- 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.

Candidates are encouraged to contact Prometric through the online Contact Us page for a timely response, or through toll-free phone line in the U.S. in support of candidates with specific requests: 1-800-936-2433. **Candidates may receive a quicker response through the Contact Us page than the phone line.** 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:
- Advanced Dental Admission Test (ADAT)
- National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)
Pearson VUE has released the following updates regarding all company owned testing centers in the US and Canada:

- **As of May 21, testing centers are open in all states EXCEPT:**
  California, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Washington. All testing centers in a specific state may be open at this time, and candidates should continue checking the Pearson VUE website for updates.

- **NBDHE updates (May 21, 2020):** The JCNDE and DTS are aware that a sizable number of candidates are waiting to take the NBDHE. The JCNDE and DTS are working closely with Pearson VUE to improve the scheduling process, to address these candidate needs. The options being considered are anticipated to significantly improve scheduling while also preserving the validity of the NBDHE for its intended purpose (i.e., for use in informing board licensure decisions that protect the public health). Updates concerning this will be provided shortly. Candidates should monitor this COVID-19 update document closely, to receive these updates.

- Pearson VUE will outfit all test centers with health and safety necessities, such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant, etc., for operations to resume. Additionally, all candidates will be required to wear a face mask and appropriate social distancing requirements will be in place. Pearson VUE will monitor restrictions and make adjustments as necessary.

- Pearson VUE will extend the temporary suspension of exam deliveries in US and Canada through May 31 where restrictions remain. In these areas, candidates scheduled through May 31 will receive cancellation and rescheduling notices starting on April 27. New candidate appointment availability begins on June 1 and beyond.

Pearson VUE anticipates a higher volume of candidates looking for testing appointments this summer, due to the number of testing appointments that were postponed or not made due to COVID-19. Candidates should search for an appointment in a physical test center, and also leverage the "Compare 3 Sites" option on the Pearson VUE website to ensure all available seats are considered for a testing appointment.

Additional plans are in place to accommodate the larger-than-normal volume.

Candidates should visit the Pearson VUE website for updates regarding the projected opening dates for specific test centers and proposed safety precautions visitors will need to follow.

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 on June 15, 2020.
- The JCNDE is conducting webinars to share details of the DLOSCE implementation plan and answer questions from stakeholders and communities of interest. These webinars are focused on specific stakeholder groups:
  - Dental boards: Watch a recording of this webinar on YouTube
  - Dental students: Watch a recording of the webinar using this password: 8xt$Jw54
  - Dental deans and dental educators: May 21, 2020, 4:00-5:00pm (Central)
- Additional details concerning this exciting new examination program are available on the DLOSCE website.

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.

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.