

**National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE)  
Short-Form-NBDHE FAQs**

**Q1: If I am currently scheduled to take the NBDHE, can I reschedule to take the short-form-NBDHE?**

Yes, but you must first cancel your current testing appointment before you can be scheduled to take the short-form. The ADA's Department of Testing Services will send a survey to candidates with current NBDHE appointments, to identify those who would prefer to reschedule and obtain an appointment for the short-form-NBDHE.

**Q2: If I choose to transition to the short-form-administration, can I keep my current, "standard form" appointment in reserve while trying to schedule an appointment to take the short-form?**

No, unfortunately each candidate can only have one active NBDHE testing appointment in the Department of Testing Services' application processing system at a time.

**Q3: Why is there no difference in administration fees, between the short and standard forms?**

While test administration times are shorter for the short-form-NBDHE, the JCNDE incurred additional costs republishing and quality checking the shortened examination forms, conducting the necessary psychometric investigations, developing ancillary materials, conducting additional reviews, etc. This was in addition to costs that had already been incurred for the standard-length forms. The work required was substantial, but important to do in light of candidate circumstances due to COVID-19.

**Q4: If I am approved to take the NBDHE standard form, am I also approved to take the short-form-NBDHE?**

Yes, your existing application approval will be used as approval for the short form.

**Q5: Is the short-form-NBDHE valid?**

Yes. The shortened version of the NBDHE has undergone thorough psychometric investigation within the Department of Testing Services; there is strong validity and reliability evidence to support usage of the short-form-NBDHE. Content appearing in the shortened forms is proportionally representative of the current NBDHE test specifications.

**Q6: I am approved to receive testing accommodations. Can I take the short-form-NBDHE?**

Yes. All previously arranged testing accommodations will be provided for the short-form-NBDHE.

**Q7: Will results for the short-form-NBDHE be reported any differently to boards?**

No. Results from the standard and short-form versions of the NBDHE will be presented the same way to dental boards (i.e., boards will simply see whether a candidate passed or failed the NBDHE). Boards will continue to receive the vital, high quality information that is necessary to understand whether a candidate for licensure possesses the level of skills required to safely practice dental hygiene.

**Q8: Will the JCNDE continue to offer a short-form-NBDHE, after the COVID-19 crisis is over?**

The JCNDE anticipates maintaining short-form-NBDHE administration policies until the backlog of displaced candidates is resolved, and at that time will make a determination about future testing. Updates will be posted on the JCNDE's [NBDHE web pages](#).

**Q9: Why does the JCNDE feel that the short-form-NBDHE will address the current testing backlog?**

The JCNDE believes that—by reducing the administration time and substantially increasing the number of test centers available to candidates—the current backlog will be addressed by the end of this summer. Discussions with Pearson VUE have further confirmed that making these changes will make a significant difference in permitting candidates to challenge the NBDHE.

**Q10: Can my dental hygiene program reserve a block of seats at a testing center, to take the short-form-NBDHE?**

Unfortunately programs will be unable to reserve seat blocks.

**Q11: When can I schedule an appointment to take the short-form-NBDHE?**

Candidates will be able to self-schedule short-form-NBDHE testing appointments roughly 2 to 3 weeks before the implementation date, which is anticipated to occur in mid-July.

**Q12: Where can I go for additional information about the NBDHE? Will there be a separate candidate guide published for the short-form-NBDHE?**

More information will be posted on the JCNDE's [NBDHE web pages](#). The [NBDHE Candidate Guide](#) will contain updated information regarding the short-form-NBDHE. Candidates will be required to acknowledge they have read and understood the Guide prior to their examination.