

## January Covid-19 Pandemic Update

The National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) continues to monitor the national and international concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Our first priority remains the health and well-being of our candidates, our examiners/evaluators and our volunteers and staff. We also care about partners and stakeholders and our ongoing cooperation.

Developments have been quickly changing over the last few weeks. The following is a brief update relating to the NDAEB, the Written Exam, Clinical Practice Evaluations (CPE) and International Candidates:

### Written Examination

- With the onset of the Pandemic, the NDAEB made a full transition to computer-based registration and testing in 2020 (both in testing centres and by remote proctoring).
- We are currently finalizing arrangements for testing centre seats for 2021 across Canada with our provider. This is challenging as exam seats are in high demand, but we are faced with restricted capacities during the pandemic. As a result, in order to secure enough testing seats AND ensure the safety of administering exams to candidates during the pandemic, the traditionally scheduled March exam will be delayed until late spring. A June exam sitting will also be scheduled as per usual practice.

Exact exam dates and application deadlines are being established. Programs will be notified as soon as possible once confirmed; this will include additional directives for your students.

It is our intention to open registration for the spring exam by mid-February. Candidates will be registered at that time on a first come, first served basis.

### Clinical Practice Evaluation

- The Clinical Practice Evaluations (CPE) are being scheduled where possible, with tight Covid specific protocols. CPE sites will only be open for evaluations on a site-by-site basis in keeping with local health guidelines and where the health and safety of both our candidates and our evaluating teams can be adequately protected. In the event there any session cancellations, candidates will be contacted directly, and information will be posted on the NDAEB web site. Due to high demand, and to ensure safety, candidates have not been permitted to schedule for CPE outside of their residing provinces.

### International Candidates

- During the spring 2020 lockdown the NDAEB was not able to process International applications. This backlog was cleared prior to the October and December exams. During the current state of emergency in Ontario, processing of **international applications will again be delayed** due to the paper-based nature of the documents required for review. However, the NDAEB will continue to process these in a limited capacity and to the extent possible while operating within provincial and federal guidelines. We ask that international

candidates please be patient and do not contact the office unnecessarily during this period. Candidates will be contacted if further information is necessary, or if their application is approved or denied. Candidates can refer to the NDAEB website for information: [www.ndaeb.ca](http://www.ndaeb.ca).

### **National Office Closure**

- The NDAEB office in Ottawa will be closed, effective Thursday, January 14, 2021, for a 28-day period as per the regulations recently announced for the state of emergency declared in the province of Ontario. Staff are working remotely and will reply to all enquiries in a timely manner, and as soon as possible.

Please remember, the best source of information for Dental Assisting programs from the NDAEB is the **NEWS** section of our website ([www.NDAEB.ca](http://www.NDAEB.ca)). Please keep in mind these news postings are dated in order of the most recent; older postings remain for reference purposes but may contain information that is no longer relevant.

### **Important Reminder:**

The NDAEB's requirement for all exam eligible dental assisting programs remains unchanged.

All theoretical and practical components of the curriculum must be taught prior to the issuance of a diploma, in order to maintain exam eligibility. To the extent that programs are able to teach theoretical components on-line, we support this approach as being necessary under the circumstances; provided all material required continues to be appropriately covered.

I want to assure you and your colleagues that the NDAEB is with you in this turbulent time and we continued to adapt as quickly as possible to meet the needs of our candidates.

Warm regards and thank you for all you are doing for your students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alh Arum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being significantly larger and more stylized than the others.