

APRIL UPDATE

The National Dental Examining Board of Canada

BUSINESS CONTINUITY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

The continued spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the resulting public health and government regulations has had a significant impact on how the NDEB runs its operations.

NDEB staff has been working remotely since March 16 and all in person meetings and workshops have either been cancelled or moved to a virtual platform. At this time, it is expected that meetings and workshops planned until the end of May will be rescheduled or held virtually.

The closure of facilities and restrictions on public gathering has resulted in the postponement of all examinations scheduled for March, May and June 2020, including cancellation of the June Assessment of Clinical Skills. Re-scheduling the May ACJ and May Written Examination and OSCE will depend on the duration of the social distancing requirement and time working remotely. The registration of participants scheduled to take the June ACS was transferred to December 2020.

A decision was also made to suspend registration to upcoming examinations as well as applications to the Equivalency Process. The status for upcoming examinations remains pending as the NDEB consults with third party providers (i.e. universities, Prometric test centres and hotels) to ensure examinations are rescheduled once restrictions are lifted. The NDEB will continue to follow the recommendations of public health authorities to ensure the safety of its staff and examinees as it navigates through these uncertain times.

These decisions will have a significant financial impact and the NDEB's accounting team continues to work on forecasting for the coming months.

An FAQ section has been added to the NDEB website to address the most common queries stemming from applicants and examinees. This section will be updated regularly.

NATIONAL DENTAL SPECIALTY EXAMINATION



The June National Dental Specialty Examinations (NDSE) was cancelled and the NDEB intends to reschedule the NDSE in September 2020. While registration for the NDSE remains closed, the application process has opened. The NDEB has incorporated changes to its regular application process to allow NDSE applicants to apply and submit the required documents early. Early submission will help the NDEB confirm eligibility as early as possible.

The NDSE Protocol will be available in May on the NDEB website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Part of the NDEB's ongoing strategic initiatives is to improve communications with stakeholders. This includes incorporating new tools into its communication tool kit.

This March, NDEB launched its first initiative into social media with a Facebook page. Examinees will be encouraged to follow the NDEB Facebook page for news, announcements, and information on examination registrations.

Follow us on Facebook today!

EXAMINATIONS

AUG 8 & 9

Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge

NOV 16 & 17

Written Examination & OSCE

NOV 21 & 22

Assessment of Clinical Judgement

DEC 5 & 6

Assessment of Clinical Skills

**Subject to public health and government recommendations*

UPCOMING



STATISTICS

2020 SO FAR

In the first quarter of 2020, the NDEB administered the Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK) on February 2 and the Written Examination and OSCE on March 7 & 8. The following are the latest statistics.

| | WRITTEN EXAM | | OSCE | | DSCKE | |
|-------|--------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--------|
| Year | Candidates | % Pass | Candidates | % Pass | Candidates | % Pass |
| 2018 | 1295 | 87 | 1229 | 93 | 6 | 76 |
| 2019 | 1373 | 87 | 1231 | 94 | 16 | 79 |
| 2020* | | | | | 13 | 82 |

*February 2020 only

| | AFK | | ACJ | | ACS | |
|-------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| Year | Participants | % Pass | Participants | % Pass | Participants | % Pass |
| 2018 | 1585 | 49 | 943 | 44 | 693 | 36 |
| 2019 | 1684 | 45 | 978 | 37 | 783 | 34 |
| 2020* | 744 | 44 | | | | |

*February 2020 only

PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

Every year a group of well-seasoned examiners get together to mark the OSCE prescriptions. The meeting is normally held in Ottawa and headed by Dr. Dan Haas, specialist in Dental Anesthesia and Pharmacology, the OSCE Chief Examiner (Dr. Bob Loney) and Assistant Chief Examiner (Dr. Daniel Turgeon).

This March, the NDEB had to adapt to the current situation which meant marking each prescription remotely. Marking material and iPads were shipped to the homes of each examiner prior to the marking session. A significant amount of staff time and work was involved. Approximately 1500 prescription forms were put in numerical order by candidate ID, separated by language, scanned and batched into bundles of approximately 45 prescriptions each, and then uploaded to the NDEB SharePoint.

Bundles were assigned to each examiner for 1st and 2nd checks to ensure an even distribution. Marking was conducted over a two-day online conference allowing everyone to discuss issues or share a prescription when an opinion was required. This collaboration across the miles ensured a continuous flow to the OSCE marking process and will allow the NDEB to process results of the March OSCE with minimal delays.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The following meetings are still scheduled to go on as planned, virtually-speaking of course.



April 23, 2020 Finance & Audit Committee
May 7, 2020 Executive Committee
May 8, 2020 Interim Board

