

COVID-19 Pandemic and Dental Students

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for Canadians. The Canadian Dental Association (CDA) has been active in addressing this crisis and is committed to doing all that it can to support the oral health of Canadians, the dental profession, including any implications on 2020-21 Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) and dental school admissions.

Top Priority: Protecting the Health of DAT Participants

CDA would like to assure all DAT participants (applicants, students, administrators, invigilators, graders, etc.) that protecting your health is a top priority. The DAT Office is continuously monitoring the guidelines and recommendations provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), as well as directives from provincial jurisdictions.

Modifications to Some DAT Procedures

Modifications have been made to some DAT exam procedures and room seating capacities to meet guidelines prescribed by public health officials in various jurisdictions. The status of our DAT delivery continues to change due to the evolving COVID-19 situation. We will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions about test centre operations in accordance with government and local authorities. As the administrator of the Canadian DAT exam, the CDA has made it our priority to respond and adjust to the unprecedented events of these past few months. We understand that every potential applicant to dental school is experiencing challenges that no one could have anticipated.

Dental Schools Determine Admission Requirements

It is important to understand that each dental school in Canada determines its own admission requirements, including whether it will require DAT scores. CDA has no role in this process; our only role is to administer the DAT exam.