

March 30, 2020

Dear Registered WREB Candidate,

My name is Dr. Dale Chamberlain and I am the President of WREB. I want to communicate with all of you directly to assure you that, despite these very unusual times, WREB is committed to providing you the exam that you registered for as quickly as possible.

We have found ourselves in the unusual position of having to postpone numerous exams, something we have never had to do in our forty-year history. We are as unhappy about the need to do this as you are and are very aware of the impact on your future, especially how this will impact your ability to obtain your license. WREB has taken the following actions since this crisis began:

- On March 14 when it became apparent that we would be postponing several exams and that would likely continue, we notified all of our member state boards and asked for their cooperation in relaxing any rules that could be relaxed and their flexibility with candidates applying for licensure during this COVID-19 Pandemic.
- We have taken postponement action on a case-by-case basis and have always made the final decision to do so only after collaborating with each school's administration. Some of our states have been particularly hard hit (Washington, Oregon, California) and the crisis seems to be building in the midwestern states. All the sites were affected with little warning or time to prepare, and like each of us individually, have numerous immediate issues to contend with as they switch to online learning, curriculum modification, concerns of students, etc.
- WREB staff is working with the administration at all our host sites to begin the process of rescheduling. Together, we are prioritizing issues and working on rescheduling exams as soon as it is feasible. Given there is so much uncertainty, we are working on tentative dates with each school and we will publish them as we get close enough to **confirm** that they will happen. It is our desire to reschedule each exam only once and to be transparent in our communication with you. It is still too soon to predict when it might be safe to reschedule with certainty at many of our exam sites.
- We have established an internal work group to fast track a non-patient-based exam to potentially be implemented for this year where due to exceptional circumstances for state boards they might consider that as an option.

- As of today, we expect to have completed two beta tests on the simulation exams by the end of the week, if corona virus circumstances do not cause cancellation.
- We are in continuous communication with state boards across the country, other testing agencies and AADB to share relevant information.
- As of March 30<sup>th</sup>, we have added additional information regarding status of exams to our **WREB and COVID-19** website updates. This will be updated daily and will let you know what exams have been postponed. It will also include rescheduled dates when we are **certain** they will happen. We will also continue to communicate with you via email once your registration in the rescheduled exam is finalized.

In closing, WREB has a reputation for being the most candidate friendly and professional administrator of valid and reliable competency assessments for entry level dental professionals. We continue to monitor the spread of the virus and hope to be back to completing exams as soon as it is safe for patients, candidates, examiners, staff and all others who participate in the process and do our part to moving you along to achieving your goal of becoming a licensed practitioner.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dale Chamberlain, DDS