

April 29, 2020

Dear Dental Exam Candidate,

I am writing to provide you with an update on dental examination options this year. I know you are all anxious to complete your licensure exam and move on to the next steps in your career. It is our desire to provide timely and accurate information to you as soon it becomes available. By now you have all received emails informing you of any exam that was postponed and new dates, where available. Updates are also posted on wreb.org as they happen, often daily.

In recent weeks, the administration of WREB has been working to develop an alternative exam format due to COVID-19 and the difficulties associated with administering a patient-based exam. In addition to rescheduling all impacted exams, we have completed developing and beta testing an operative simulation section as an alternative to our traditional patient-based examination. We have developed materials to communicate the exam options that WREB can make available for 2020. These have been distributed to state boards for their consideration. We are working closely with state boards, especially in the states where our host sites are located, to provide them the information they need to make decisions on the available options. WREB is working to gain acceptance of this alternative format for the exam but cannot guarantee its portability. We can tell you that, as of this writing, Texas, Utah, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon and Tennessee have accepted the Operative simulation section. We are also in discussion with California, Washington and Missouri.

WREB will NOT be offering a manikin exam for periodontics. The Comprehensive Treatment Planning (CTP) section of our exam contains perio content which we feel is sufficient under the current circumstances and we will continue to emphasize that to state boards. Again, individual state boards will need to make individual decisions on accepting CTP in lieu of a patient-based perio portion of the examination. As of today, Texas, Utah, Kansas, Oregon and Tennessee have waived the perio portion. We are seeking clarity on Nebraska's decision and are in conversation with California, Washington, Oklahoma and Missouri.

The manikin exam will require only a very small team of examiners and staff to oversee the administration of the exam, which decreases the likelihood of needing to reschedule due to COVID-19. However, candidates will not receive immediate results since grading will take place at a later date offsite. Since there will be no immediate results, there will be no opportunity for onsite retakes.

We are also working on the possibility of offering both the patient-based option and the manikin option, during the same event, at each site, **if COVID-19 circumstances allow**. We expect that this will vary by site and will likely not be feasible until late June at the earliest. For those exams after June, we will know if this is feasible approximately 5 weeks before the exam. We will be engaging with your school's administration to determine if current local circumstances will allow it. **If it is a combined exam, candidates will need to declare in advance by a pre-published date, the format they plan to take and then they will be committed to that format.** Changes after the deadline date will not be permitted, regardless of circumstances. More details will be made available as the final decision point draws near for each site. There are pros and cons to consider for each type of exam.

While I understand that expediency to licensure is your primary concern, I must remind you that in order to conduct exams we need not only candidates, but patients, examiners, school staff and WREB staff. WREB needs to be sure that we are offering a safe environment for everyone. The logistics involved in offering the patient portion of the exam at the same time as the manikin, make things more complicated for all of us. Large groups must be permitted to gather, patients must be willing to participate, flights must be available, hotels must be open, catered food must be able to be brought into schools, PPE for everyone must be available, etc. These are just a few of the many variables that go into a smooth and successful exam administration.

WREB continues to be committed to delivering the exams we have scheduled as soon as circumstances allow. We are striving to offer the exam in as many formats as state boards will accept and getting candidates on to the next step in their careers.

I sincerely hope you will stay committed to WREB. We are doing our very best to make things happen as quickly as possible for all of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Cole".

Beth Cole
Chief Executive Officer