

April 22, 2021

Component C Examination ~ Date Change

Update to Component C Candidates, Volunteers and Stakeholders:

We regret to inform you that the May 29-30, 2021 administration of CCEB examination Component C is no longer viable due to the ongoing impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

There is no impact on the Component A/B examination on May 15, 2021.

In order to provide for greater safety and certainty regarding this Component C administration, the examination has been moved to **July 17-18, 2021**.

At this time, the exam sites remain the same.

We recognize that this is extremely frustrating.

What you can do:

1. No action is required on your part. Your Component C application has been deferred to the new administration date.
2. Should you wish to cancel your examination application due to this change, please email exams@cceb.ca. Your application will be cancelled and a full refund issued.
3. We ask that, prior to calling the CCEB with questions or concerns, you read all of the communications and FAQ's available on our website.

What the CCEB has done:

The CCEB has been fortunate in that we have experienced testing success where others have not. We adapted early, releasing [safety guidelines](#) for safe testing in June of 2020 and distributing them to government agencies across the country in the hope that high stakes entry-to-practice testing would be recognized as an essential service in support of public health and protection. We prepared a host of additional resources and FAQ's all available on our website cceb.ca and have continued to reach out to governments for clarity and work collaboratively with other testing organizations to share resources and information.

In March 2021, we released a report on our response and the related outcomes '[COVID-19 Adaptations ~ rapid response and future direction](#)', which reflected on our

successes while remaining mindful of the evolving landscape and our need to remain diligent and prepared for the future.

Adherence to public health guidance, along with our concerns for the safety of our candidates, staff, volunteers, site personnel, and the public at large, remains of paramount importance. Public health guidelines and regulations are changing frequently and are not universal. Each province has a unique approach to the COVID-19 response.

Ontario is our primary testing location and, as such, restrictions and exemptions in Ontario are monitored closely. We were initially heartened when we reviewed the current Ontario regulations which recognized professional licensure examination specifically and provided exemptions for such testing. However, the wording (see excerpt below) of the exemption left some question as to whether chiropractic was considered as a 'rehabilitation science' under point 15.

Excerpt from current regulation:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200263>

Meeting and Event Space

4. (6) Subsections (1) to (1.2) do not apply to the rental of meeting or event space for the purpose of conducting in-person examinations for the registration, licensing or accreditation of persons in any of the fields or occupations described in subsection 2 (1.1) of Schedule 3 to Ontario Regulation 82/20 (Rules for Areas in Stage 1) made under the Act, so long as no more than 50 students are permitted to occupy the rented space.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200082#BK9>

(1.1) An instructional program referred to in sub-subparagraphs 1 iii A and 3 ii A of subsection (1) is an instructional program in any of the following fields or an instructional program to train an individual for any of the following occupations, as the case may be:

- 1. Diagnostic cardiac sonography.*
- 2. Diagnostic medical sonography.*
- 3. Diagnostic ultrasound.*
- 4. Medical imaging.*
- 5. Medical laboratory assistant.*
- 6. Medical laboratory technician.*
- 7. Medical radiation technology.*
- 8. Medicine.*
- 9. Mental health and addictions services, including psychology services, social work services and counselling services.*
- 10. Nursing.*
- 11. Paramedic.*
- 12. Personal support worker, supportive care worker, home care worker or a similar occupation.*
- 13. Pharmacy/pharmacy technician.*

14. Public health inspector, if the program is accredited by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.
15. Rehabilitation sciences (nutrition, speech language pathology, occupational science, and physiotherapy).
16. Respiratory therapy.

We next sought clarity from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health regarding the applicability to chiropractic. We were advised:

“We note that chiropractic is not one of the specified fields or occupations in the regulations (please refer to subsection 2 (1.1) of Schedule 3 under [O. Reg 82/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 1](#)). If you have questions about the application of the regulations to your particular situation, you may wish to seek legal advice.”

The legal opinion we sought determined that this regulatory exemption was not provided to chiropractic. As such, we are unable to rely on the regulation as a guide for our examination to proceed.

Next, we connected with the Office of the Fairness Commissioner (OFC) in Ontario, as they have been very proactive and engaged in the regulatory impacts created by the loss of the ability to conduct entry-to-practice examinations in many regulated professions. However, while the OFC was supportive and can be an advocate, they do not have the power to grant permission in the face of the existing regulations.

Finally, we sent a formal correspondence to multiple contacts in the Ministry of Health including the Hon. Christine Elliott, the Minister of Health in Ontario, indicating our desire to have all regulated health professions treated equally and having chiropractic, among the other omitted regulated health professions, added to the regulation. This letter was endorsed and supported by the College of Chiropractors of Ontario, for which we are appreciative.

At the date of writing, we have had no response from the ministry and the regulations currently in place in Ontario preclude us from testing at the current stage of opening as well as at the next, less restrictive, stage of opening. As Ontario has now also implemented travel restrictions, there is no certainty that the Ministry of Health would consider travel for the purposes of the CCEB examination to be essential and thus permitted. This precludes volunteers, staff, and candidates from being permitted to travel to attend the exam, or at the very least it lacks certainty.

The expanding, and now almost pan-Canadian, interregional travel prohibitions and restrictions create significant barriers to success for the CCEB examination at any site, including Montreal or Calgary. Our examination relies on the ability and permission for candidates, volunteers, and staff to travel inter-regionally. We had secured an alternate site in another province, as a contingency. However, with the most recent travel

prohibitions, including those announced in British Columbia earlier this week, we are simply unable to staff an exam of any size and there is a distinct lack of certainty as to the ability of candidates to be able to attend the exam while adhering to public health guidelines.

The CCEB clinical examination, in any location, requires the willing participation and interregional movement of hundreds of people including practicing chiropractors, standardized patients and site staff along with our own CCEB staff, unsurprisingly there is increasing reluctance, including from candidates, to participate given the current circumstances.

As the role of the CCEB is in support of public protection it is imperative that we remain vigilant in doing our part to support public health guidelines. Clearly, health regions across the country are concerned about interregional travel at this critical stage in the COVID-19 pandemic and, as a result, the CCEB has made the difficult decision to postpone the May 29-30 Component C administration to **July 17-18, 2021** when it is anticipated the situation will be more favourable.