

FAQ 2.0~ COVID-19 impacts on the CCEB Examination

If, having read **all** posted CCEB communications, you have additional questions please email them to exams@cceb.ca.

COVID-19 is a global crisis and the situation is fluid. The following is provided based on the best information available. We will continue to update the CCEB website if/when the situation changes.

Please monitor www.cceb.ca for examination related information.

1. Will the CCEB consider adapting the exam to an online platform in the event mass gatherings are restricted past the summer/fall?

The CCEB is continuously monitoring best practice in entry-to-practice testing and evaluating opportunities for improvement. Although online platforms for computer-based testing are used by many organizations, these examinations have been equally impacted, by the COVID-19 pandemic, due to proctoring centre closures.

Online platforms for remote proctoring (meaning testing in a location of your choosing under some varied form of proctoring program) have not been broadly adopted for high stakes entry-to-practice testing in any profession and less so in health professions. The CCEB can not embrace methods of testing that might, in any way, jeopardize the important role of the CCEB examinations in public protection. We continue to investigate, monitor, and review developments in the testing space.

The CCEB is thoughtfully reviewing the potential impacts of gathering size restrictions. These public health restrictions vary by jurisdiction and have changed significantly in the past few weeks. It is not possible to imagine what these restrictions might look like in the fall. Certainly, some restrictions would prohibit an in-person examination administration, as was the case with our spring administration. However, the CCEB is reviewing contingency plans to address some forms of social distancing requirements and gathering restrictions.

2. Will the CCEB consider hosting the exam at an earlier date, such as during the summer, at a different available facility (a chiropractic college for example)?

The CCEB explored a summer administration. There are several significant barriers to a summer administration.

The CCEB requires at least 70 simultaneously available OSCE stations in order to conduct an examination of this size. There are very few facilities that can provide the environment required to conduct this examination. At this time, the facilities that we rely on to conduct our OSCE examination are either not accepting bookings at all or not

accepting 'confirmed' bookings into the summer, leaving to much uncertainty and too short a timeline.

There is a specified timeline to permit the CCEB to process results from an examination and deliver those results to candidates, such that the candidate can apply for the subsequent examination.

- Applications close for the fall administration on July 31, 2020.
- Any results received after July 31, 2020 would mean a candidate would have missed the fall application deadline.

The timeframe between the close of applications and the administration of the subsequent examination is spaced specifically to meet operational requirements (to ensure that final examination preparations can be completed). Significant portions of examination preparations rely on the candidate application data including: exam component(s), preferred location, language, academic accommodations etc. Having an administration that could not support results being released in time for subsequent application would mean that a candidate would not be able to apply for the fall administration. Effectively, they would need to wait until February to complete their subsequent exam component or to retake the exam if they are unsuccessful.

Additionally, due to uncertainty in facilities booking noted above, an earlier administration in the summer could also need to be cancelled due to public health order(s). The timing of this could mean that any candidate who had applied for that earlier administration would not be able to write during the fall administration, having missed the application window.

We strive to provide the most secure and fair testing environment available, and select our facilities based on, among other things, these criteria. We test candidates from many different schools around the world. It would not be possible for us to securely provide an examination at each of these schools so that each candidate could be equally familiar with the testing environment.

3. I heard other examining boards are rescheduling their exams in the summer. Why isn't the CCEB?

Every organization has unique variables and constraints to consider. As such, the CCEB is not in a position to comment on, or confirm, the actions of specific organizations.

We do keep in contact with peers in high stakes testing and most have not yet rescheduled any cancelled administrations. Many organizations, like the CCEB, are seeking every avenue available to provide as much continuity to candidates as possible. The CCEB is fortunate to have three examination administrations annually and, as

such, we have another available/secured date within approximately four months of the cancelled spring administration.

The CCEB exercised forethought in mid-March and expanded the space we had secured for the fall administration. At that time, the cancellation of the spring administration was not being considered but precautionary measures were taken. As such, we have sufficient space secured for our examinations in the fall; with many examinations being cancelled and moved to later dates, this is a fortunate position for the CCEB. As the situation develops, we continue to think strategically and create contingency plans.

4. If social distancing still applies in October, how will the OSCE be adapted?

The OSCE is designed to test clinical judgement/decision-making and, as such, it is structured to attempt to replicate (as closely as possible in a standardized environment) a clinical environment, which for most provinces remains a face-to-face patient interaction.

It is reasonable to presume that if public health restrictions remain such that chiropractors are not permitted to be in general practice, then our OSCE examination will not be permitted to proceed using the standard testing format.

We are preparing the fall CCEB Component C examinations with an eye to potential public gathering restrictions. We are prepared to permit PPE use and engage additional cleaning protocols if public health authorities deem it safe to do so. We cannot presume to know what level, or type, of public health guidance will be forming best practice in the fall. As mentioned, we continue to explore all available options that can reasonably meet the psychometric requirements of a high-stakes, entry-to-practice examination and our testing objectives. At all times, the CCEB is focused on adhering to public health guidance.

5. Will an online petition have an impact?

It is understandable that candidates are anxious, frustrated, and eager to begin practice in Canada. Candidates are advised to check with your chosen provincial regulatory body with respect to practice restrictions that may be in place in that province.

The CCEB is committed to following Canadian national, provincial, and related local public health guidance to ensure we are doing our part to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and support the safety of all involved in our exams, as well as the broader community. This crisis is not isolated to the CCEB examination administration; the local, national, and global impacts continue to unfold with remarkable speed, fluidity,



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and tragic loss of life. The administration of the CCEB examination will continue to be determined based on public health guidance and psychometrically valid administration principles.