

June 10, 2020

Dear CCEB stakeholders,

It is incredible to reflect on our shared journey over the past three months. We continue to consider transparency a key strategy for effectively navigating this challenging time together. In that vein, while we do not have all the answers, we wanted to share a brief update regarding our upcoming fall administration. This is not the totality of information which will be provided to candidates; we continue to develop robust resources to launch in advance of July 6, 2020 when applications for the fall administration open. We appreciate your patience.

The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant impacts on organizations in Canada and around the world, the CCEB is no different. We have continued to explore options, seek solutions, and knowledge-share with our peers in high-stakes testing. There are no easy solutions to such a complex situation; it is difficult to gauge organizational response based on the ongoing uncertainty and fluidity. The CCEB made a commitment to our members, the provincial regulators, to *'work tirelessly to make the best and most informed decisions based on the information available'*; we stand firmly by that commitment.

Component A/B – written multiple choice examination

The CCEB, and our psychometrician Dr. Anthony Marini, have satisfied ourselves that we have secured a remote proctoring solution that meets our high standards for security. We have shared previously our concerns about security and fairness with respect to remote proctoring. In order to address the matter of fairness, a candidate who could not access sufficient technology for remote proctoring for example, we have elected to use a hybrid model. Candidates will be able to select either 'in-person' or 'remote proctoring' for the Component A and B examinations. Testing will continue to take place synchronously with sequestering procedures in place. This may result in candidates being sequestered slightly longer than usual.

Candidates electing to use remote proctoring will be required to ensure that they can meet the technology requirements (including dual cameras) as well as the bandwidth and environmental conditions to support live remote proctoring. Each live proctor will supervise approximately six candidates virtually to ensure that the security of the examination is preserved. We continue to work on robust FAQs and communications to ensure candidates understand the expectations and obligations of remote proctoring.

To support social distancing and to assist in reduced travel, we have added a third site for the fall administration of Components A and B: Calgary, Montreal, Hamilton. We are prepared, in terms of facilities, to adjust should one or two of these sites not be available. We are positioning ourselves to provide the greatest likelihood that we will be able to test candidates in the fall, albeit that there is no certainty based on changing public health restrictions.

Component C – Objective Structured Clinical Examination

At this time, guidelines in all provinces would not permit the administration of an OSCE. In an attempt to secure certainty, the CCEB has proactively created “*Proposed Guidance for Testing Organizations*”. Modelled after various other guidelines provided by provincial governments with respect to re-opening, we have compiled an extensive guidance document including guidelines for: screening, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing, and PPE. We are initiating dialogue with provincial health officials, and others, with respect to this proposal.

Although our Component C administration in the fall is currently scheduled for Hamilton and Montreal, we are preparing to pivot if needed. As provinces are opening up at different rates with different restrictions, we are monitoring the situation and hopeful that we will be able to secure permission to test based on our guidelines. We remain optimistic for our fall administration while being realistic. We are prepared to adjust our sites as necessary in order to provide as much certainty as possible that the fall administration of the CCEB examinations can proceed. However, we do not know what the future holds, and we can not be assured we will be able to hold our examination in person despite our best efforts.

We will continue to uphold our promise to work tirelessly to make the best and most informed decisions based on the information available. Additional, detailed information will be provided to candidates in early July. We appreciate your continued support and patience as we navigate this together.

Please see www.cceb.ca for our previous communications and FAQs.