



## THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS

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### DENTAL HYGIENE CANDIDATES:

#### EXAMINATION MODIFICATIONS FOR THE PATIENT TREATMENT CLINICAL EXAMINATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The criteria, exam process and grading will be the same as explained in the 2020 Candidate Manual for the ADEX Restorative and Periodontal Examinations with the following exceptions:

1. Infection control protocols set by the host school must be followed. All candidates must check the facility information sheet to see what PPE is required and what will be provided by the host school. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure they have PPE that fit those protocols. In addition, per school requirements, a COVID-19 health questionnaire and temperature measurement may be required for candidates, assistants, patients and examiners prior to entry into the school or exam area.
2. Candidates must always wear appropriate PPE in the clinic area, changing gloves mask, gown or other PPE when they become soiled or wet.
3. All candidates will follow CDC Guidelines regarding donning and doffing PPE ([CDC Donning and Doffing PPE](#)), maintaining maximum distance between chairs where treatment is being provided (per school and state policy) and washing hands and any exposed skin surfaces if possibly contaminated.
4. Candidates keep all exam paperwork well away from the treatment chair and covered when not in use. Candidates will avoid touching pens or common paperwork with contaminated gloves.
5. Aerosols must be kept to a minimum. The use of ultrasonic scalers (Cavitron or Piezo) is not permitted until September 1, 2020 when the recommendations will be re-evaluated. The use of air spray for the purposes of drying the operating field is discouraged. These guidelines are based on recommendations by the CDC ([CDC Dental Settings](#)), the ADHA ([ADHA Interim Guidelines](#)), and the ADA ([ADA Interim Guidelines](#)).
6. Coronal polishing will be prohibited for the 2020 exams. The criteria for the removal of biofilm and extrinsic stain will not be evaluated and the associated 1 point will be granted to the candidate. *(rev. 6/19/20)*
7. The clinical treatment time is extended by ½ hour to 2.5 hours for exams restricted to hand scaling.
8. CDC guidelines must be followed for the removal of PPE and disposal of such materials. School protocols must be followed for the cleaning/disinfecting process of all equipment and chairs.
9. All exposed skin surfaces must be washed before leaving the exam site. On return home separate and thoroughly wash all clothing worn during the examination and encourage your patients to do the same.