



**Nova Scotia
Board of Examiners
in Psychology**

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**BULLETIN FROM NSBEP
CONCERNING THE EVOLVING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
March 20, 2020**

To date, NSBEP has issued information from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

In addition, there were there were two communications from NSBEP in March. You can click on the links below to review the previous NSBEP communications.

[March 12, 2020](#)

[March 19, 2020](#)

In today's communication, we wish to address some other practical matters that have arisen in the current context.

NSBEP Board and Office

Effective March 16th, NSBEP has remained open but delivering services through phone, email, fax, the applicant/registrant portals and website. However, our physical office is closed to the public until further notice. Whenever possible, applicant/registrants should use phone, email and faxes to communicate with NSBEP as access to postal mail can be irregular and may become interrupted.

On March 15, the [provincial government directed organizations and businesses](#) in Nova Scotia to practice social distancing and to support staff to work from home where possible. We take this direction very seriously and are committed to doing our part to keep Nova Scotians safe.

While we are continuing to carry out the functions within our mandate, we have shifted our priorities so that we have resources and procedures in place to adapt to the circumstances related to COVID-19.

The Board held its monthly meeting today virtually and made the decision to meet again next month using the same format.

Board Examinations

Oral Examination

Given the evolving situation with COVID-19 and required social distancing protocols, the Board will not be holding any in-person meetings at this time.

We understand that this is disappointing news for candidates who are seeking to complete their oral exam. The Board has not conducted an exam through video conference before; however, it will be exploring this option with the various examiners to see if they would be comfortable. Likewise, should this possibility become available, we would also want to ensure that each individual candidate is comfortable taking their exam by video. The Board does not have a tentative date set at this time. Candidates who are planning on submitting the documentation to request the oral exam, should continue to do so. However, please be aware that an in-person exam may not be available in the near future. As is typical, all candidates must continue supervision until they have successfully completed all exams required by the Board.

EPPP Examination

Pearson VUE Testing Centers are closed until April 16th at the earliest. These circumstances are beyond the test taker's control. Therefore, NSBEP will grant an extension to any candidate whose ability to write by the deadline is affected by the site closure. Candidates facing an impending deadline can take one additional month following either the reopening of the testing site or one month beyond their original EPPP deadline, whichever comes later, to write the exam. In other words, if the site reopens on April 16th, the Candidate could choose to wait an additional month beyond April 16th or wait one month beyond their stated EPPP deadline. If the site continues to be closed for an extended period of time, this temporary provision will automatically be extended as is necessary in light of this closure.

Continuing Competence

It is too early for NSBEP to determine what effects there will be on the ability for registrants to meet continuing competence requirements for 2020. This will be assessed at the end of the year.

Supervision

A reminder with respect to NSBEP supervision: the current guidelines allow that up to two supervision sessions a year can be provided by electronic means and that additional sessions may be allowed with permission of the Board. In the event that two sessions are insufficient to meet any constraints imposed by COVID-19, the Board will waive the requirement for Board approval for additional sessions. Supervisors should, however, document in their reports which sessions were electronic and why, and note any difficulties meeting direct-observation requirements caused by COVID-19.

Future Communication

Next week we will be providing a Q & A communication in order to clarify/address some further matters with the evolving situation.