

OBD COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Licensing

Q: Can I do a “working Interview” with a prospective employer, even though I don’t have my license yet?

A: NO, you may not practice dental hygiene or dentistry without an active Oregon license.

Q: What if my BLS, and/or ACLS/PALS lapsed/expires between March 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020?

A: OAR 818-012-0030(18) requires Licensees to maintain a current BLS for Healthcare Providers certificate or its equivalent at all times. OAR 818-026-0030(5) & (6) requires Licensees holding an anesthesia permit for moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia at all times maintains a current BLS for Healthcare Providers certificate and a current ACLS or PALS, whichever is appropriate for the patient being sedated. On 4/24/20, pursuant to the discretion held by the Board in ORS 679.140(1) in addition to the COVID-19 outbreak and Oregon’s current state of emergency, all licensees and applicants required to maintain a BLS for Healthcare Providers certificate or its equivalent, ACLS and/or PALS certificates which expired starting March 1, 2020, are allowed an extension of up to 120 days, until June 30, 2020 to come into compliance. Failure to come into compliance after June 30, 2020, may result in Board investigation and/or discipline. Please note, that on 6/19/20, the Board voted to extend the extension through October 31, 2020. Please note that a current Healthcare Provider BLS certification is required to renew a sedation permit.

Q: Can I still receive my license if I am unable to complete a clinical exam due to COVID-19?

A: At its August 21, 2020 meeting, the Oregon Board of Dentistry clarified that the Dental Practice Act allows them to accept the results of examinations administered by regional and national testing agencies or clinical board examinations administered by other states. This includes regional or national testing agencies who administer an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) clinical board examinations to fulfill the clinical board examination requirement for dental and dental hygiene licensure in Oregon.

However, please note the Board voted to implement temporary rules to amend licensure requirements by requiring the clinical licensure examinations must include at a minimum a clinical portion demonstrating psychomotor competency utilizing a typodont mounted in a manikin or live patient... see proposed changes [here](#). The Board voted to amend these rules at its August 21, 2020 Board meeting and they would become effective January 31, 2021.

Q: Can I complete the continuing education (CE) required for my license after the deadline since I am unable to attend in-person CE courses?

A: You are still required to complete your CE within the licensure period. The Board has no restriction on the amount of CE completed online, provided each online course includes an exam, which you must pass. The only CE that cannot be completed online is your initial Healthcare Provider BLS and/or ACLS/PALS certification. Recertification can be completed online.

Investigations

Q: Can I do consultations with patients via phone/teleconference?

A: Yes, however, these appointments are required to follow ORS 679.543 – “Use of telehealth by dental care providers”, and will be held to the same standard as an in-person consultation/exam in a Board investigation.

Q: Am I required to test heat sterilizing devices weekly if I am only seeing emergency patients? What if the testing agency stops accepting/testing the monitoring strips?

A: The Oregon Board of Dentistry does not have the authority to suspend the enforcement of state statutes. That being said, pursuant to OAR 818-012-0040, if in any week you only see unscheduled emergency patients, you do not need to test your autoclaves. If an office is open regular hours to treat emergency patients, they would be expected to test their autoclaves. The exception to the testing requirement is if the office is closed and the doctor sees one or two unscheduled emergency patients. In determining what constitutes unacceptable patient care with respect to infection control, the Board may consider current infection control guidelines, such as those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Dental Association. There are in-office testing kits that you can obtain and it is perfectly legal to do your own in house biological monitoring of your autoclaves.

Q: Can I prescribe and administer Chloroquine/Hydroxychloroquine to a family member or patient?

A: NO, there is no dental justification for any dentist to prescribe or administer Chloroquine/Hydroxychloroquine (or related drugs).

General Questions

Q: I received communications from someone requesting payment or other confidential information, is this legitimate?

A: The DEA and the OBD are aware of various scammers claiming to be Board staff to gain confidential information and possibly extort Licensees for money or information. The OBD will never ask for payment by phone or email. Please be cautious and contact the OBD directly if you are unsure about the validity of a request. The OBD operates professionally and does not threaten or coerce anyone for information or payment. Our website contains a list of the names of all OBD employees. Any caller who claims to be an OBD employee, but whose name does not appear on our website, is probably a scammer.

Q: How do I notify the state's PPE Coordinator of surplus PPE supplies, and arrange for delivery of those surplus supplies? What if I am unable to reach the PPE Coordinator?

A: Please notify the state's PPE Coordinator by calling (971) 900-9952. If you are unable to reach the PPE Coordinator, please contact the Board office at (971) 673-3200.

Q: Could I volunteer to collect oral samples to test for COVID-19?

A: The Board of Dentistry statutes and rules would not prohibit collection of oral samples, nasopharyngeal swab or serological sampling as long as the licensee has adequate training in the collection technique. The Board supports all safe efforts to combat this pandemic.

Q: How can I help?

A: The Board supports dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants signing up on the state's SERV-OR volunteer registry to be a resource for the current pandemic and future events.