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Last updated April 22, 2020

GED® Testing and Preparation in Oregon

Statement from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

Background:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued several executive orders. While these orders have had an impact on all Oregonians, this statement will address changes to colleges, universities, and public schools. On March 17, through [Executive Order 20-08](#), Governor Kate Brown announced that all public schools would remain physically closed until April 28; on April 8, Governor Brown [extended the physical closure of Oregon schools](#) for the remainder of the school year. On March 19, Governor Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) directing Oregon's higher education institutions to significantly reduce in-person operations at Oregon colleges and universities. Oregon colleges and universities had already been advised to continue teaching and learning operations but shift to online/remote delivery for all coursework. As directed by [Executive Order 20-09](#) (and extended by [Executive Order 20-12](#)), all in-person classroom, laboratory, and other instruction (with the exception of fields deemed “essential to emergency response and resiliency effort”) is prohibited from March 21, 2020, through June 13, 2020 unless that period is extended or terminated earlier by the Governor. In addition, colleges and universities must limit all on-campus operations to critical functions and employ strict social distancing measures.

Status of GED® test preparation and testing:

Student plans that include GED® test preparation and testing have been severely impacted by the pandemic and the ensuing public health orders. **Students can continue to access test preparation and testing to the extent that it is available under the current orders.** The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) has communicated to postsecondary institution partners the directives in [Governors' Executive Order No. 20-09](#) and [20-12](#). The HECC recognizes that the decision-making authority around what programs are “essential to emergency response and resiliency effort” resides with individual colleges and universities; however, the HECC has issued general guidelines for these decisions in [HECC Guidance for In-Person Program Offerings at Colleges and Universities during COVID-19 Outbreak](#). **At this time, with the implementation of the Governor's Executive Orders, our expectation is that GED® test preparation delivered by public education programs, including community colleges, universities, and high schools are being conducted via remote learning.** Institutions that have questions on whether GED® testing is “essential to the emergency response and resilience effort” should



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consult the guidelines above and their institution leadership. The GED Testing Service is in the process of developing two alternative testing methods to be available mid-to-late May. **We are not certain when alternative or traditional in-person GED® testing will resume statewide. In the meantime, we encourage educators to continue to engage with and educate students remotely using their available tools and expertise.**

For the most up-to-date information concerning COVID-19 responses, please see [ODE's FAQs](#) page and [HECC's FAQs](#) page. Additionally, the [ODE COVID-19 webpage](#) and [HECC COVID-19 Resources for Oregon Higher Education Partners webpage](#) contain the most recent information available on how the 2019 Novel Coronavirus is impacting schools in Oregon. If you have an urgent health need, please contact your [local health department](#) or health care provider.



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