



COLLEGE OF
DENTURISTS
OF ONTARIO

Winter 2021 Qualifying Examination COVID-19 Safety Plan

Preface

The College of Denturists of Ontario (“College”) protects and serves the public by governing the profession of denturism in the province. Traditionally, the College administers the Qualifying Examination (“exam” “QE”) twice a year in January and June of each year. The exam is based upon internationally recognized, best practice testing standards and procedures. The exam is designed to ensure that each candidate is afforded a fair, optimal, standardized assessment and that the exam is valid, objective, and defensible.

In March 2020, the College cancelled the June 2020 administration of the exam due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, the College has received daily briefings from the Ministry of Health’s Emergency Operations Centre regarding governmental updates and case counts from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The College has published two guidance documents for Registered Denturists: [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines](#) and [Guide for Return to Practice](#). The College worked extensively with Public Health Ontario to ensure these guidance documents adhere to best practices in general and COVID-19 specific infection prevention and control.

The College will only proceed with a Winter 2021 exam administration if the safety and well-being of all candidates, standardized patients, administrators, staff, and assessors can be assured. In the development of the Winter 2021 exam administration, every facet of the exam process has been reviewed to ensure that best practices in infection prevention and control are implemented at a level meeting or exceeding requirements of Public Health Ontario and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Due to factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the College is taking the extraordinary step to secure an exam venue that was large and flexible enough to ensure all the required infection prevention and control measures can be instituted properly. The change of the examination venue to a facility outside of Toronto carries with it the added benefit of administering the exam in an area with lower reported case numbers of COVID-19 infection. This was not an insignificant factor in deciding on a move of the exam venue for the Winter 2021 administration.



Exam Location

The 2021 Winter Qualifying examination will be administered at the David Braley Health Sciences Centre.

**David Braley Health Sciences Centre, McMaster University
100 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 1H6**

Interprovincial Travel

The Government of Ontario has not currently placed a self-isolation order for inter-provincial travel. That means candidates who travel from other provinces into Ontario to write the exam will not need to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival.

Candidates are responsible for staying apprised of all current travel advisories and plan accordingly.

Candidates are strongly asked to self-monitor for any symptoms prior to attempting the exam and to contact your primary care provider or local Public Health Unit immediately if any symptoms develop. Candidates should then contact the College to discuss their ability or inability to attempt the exam and next steps.

Reserved Rooms

Multiple Choice Question Examination (Online) - Thursday, January 21, 2021

- Please view the MCQ Candidate Information Package [here](#) for more information about the MCQ exam.

OSCE Day 1 - Saturday, January 30, 2021

- Rooms reserved: 2018, 2019, 2023, 2004, 2013, 2035, 2036 (maximum capacity 6 persons respectively)
- Services reserved: house keeping, security
- Registration will occur in the **main lobby**. Registration staff will be behind plexiglass barriers. See "Arrival" for further COVID-19 protective measures.



- The College has reserved the entire 3rd Clinic Floor including at least 15 rooms on each wing. The College will only require 8 rooms on each side out of a possible 15 room to ensure greater physical distancing and better management of foot traffic.
- The OSCE will be conducted with the following set up in each patient consultation room:
 - Each patient consultation room will contain alcohol based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol content, Class 3 Surgical Masks, plexiglass barrier 24" W x 36" H x 12" D, which are large enough to provide a barrier between the candidate and the standardized patient, and a Health Canada approved low level disinfectant.
 - The patient consultation room will contain no other materials/objects other than one desk, three chairs, question props set on the desk, papers, and PPE. Additional materials/objects will be removed when feasible, and participants will be instructed to avoid touching the remaining contact surfaces.
 - All staff and candidates will be instructed to avoid contact with fixed items that cannot be removed from the rooms.

OSCE Day 2 - Sunday, January 31, 2021

- Day 2 will be conducted with the same schedule and requirements as day 1.

Catering Plan

- Due to the pandemic and physical distancing requirements, the College will provide a catering plan for the Winter 2021 administration at the David Braley Health Sciences Centre.
- Standardized Patients and Standardized Patient Program staff will be instructed to bring their own breakfasts/lunches and drinking water.
- College exam assessors, Chief Examiner, Exam Administrator, and other exam staff will be eating their own breakfast and lunch at their offsite hotel.

Hamilton Public Health Services Requirements & Best Practices

- The City of Hamilton has enacted By-Law 20-155 requiring the use of a mask or face covering when in enclosed public spaces beginning July 20, 2020. The mask or face covering should cover your nose, mouth and chin, without gapping.
- Hamilton Public Health Services continues to recommend public health management measures be practiced by all residents in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. These measures



include washing hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, staying home if sick, keeping a physical distance of at least 2 metres from others and wearing a mask or face covering indoors, especially in settings where it is difficult to maintain a physical distance from others.

- Physical distancing requirement with at least 2 metres away from people who do not live with you.
- COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is available by appointment to decrease wait times, ensure an orderly flow and to protect patients and staff by ensuring a safe physical space can be provided at the sites.

One can get an appointment time by:

Calling Hamilton Public Health Services at 905-974-9848.

Calling your family doctor

- COVID-19 Symptoms and Testing

Any individuals who are experiencing one symptom or sign from this list should get tested:

- Fever
- New or worsening: cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, difficulty swallowing, change in taste or smell, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain.
- Atypical signs and symptoms (particularly in children, older persons and persons living with a developmental disability): unexplained fatigue, delirium, unexplained/increased falls, headache, chills, croup, conjunctivitis (pink eye), multisystem inflammatory vasculitis (in children), unexplained tachycardia and decreased blood pressure.
- Signs in young children may include lethargy and/or decreased feeding



Winter 2021 QE COVID-19 Precautions and Measures

The College will institute additional precautions as outlined by the Hamilton Public Health Services and Public Health Ontario to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all candidates, standardized patients, administrators, and assessors. The following measures will be instituted:

Arrival

- Candidates will enter the lobby only when they are asked to do so. They will be asked to line up outside respecting physical distancing requirements (minimum 2 metres) until exam personnel greet candidates and provide entry instructions.
- Candidates will be asked to be prepared for the weather while waiting outside.
- Candidates will be asked to arrive just on time and will be asked to proceed to the sequestering room immediately after registration.
- Candidates will not be permitted to loiter inside the David Braley Health Sciences Centre lobby.
- Candidates will be required to respect physical distancing of a minimum of 2 metres during the exam administration.
- Except as necessary, candidates will be asked to remain silent during the exam registration process.
- Candidates will be asked COVID-19 screening questions, before proceeding with signing a candidate's agreement that includes information regarding additional COVID-19 protocols. Only candidates who have screened negative will be permitted to proceed with the examination beyond the main lobby.
- Registration will occur at the **main lobby** with College staff behind plexiglass barriers.

Temperature

- Every candidate, standardized patient, exam administrator, College staff, and exam assessor will be required to have their temperatures taken at registration/check-in before proceeding with the exam.



- Temperatures will be taken using a contactless infrared thermometer.
- Temperatures should not exceed 37.8°C or greater.

Sequestering

- Candidates are separated into 3-4 exam groups with each group sequestered until the preceding group has completed the exam and exited the building. To support multiple exam administrations, a longer sequestering time will be required.
- Candidates are not permitted to speak and walk around while being sequestered. Candidates must be seated at their assigned spot that is physically distanced from other candidates.
- Candidates are permitted to use the washroom as required.

Surgical Masks

- Every candidate, standardized patient, exam administrator and exam assessor will be required to wear a face mask throughout the examination as well as throughout the examination site for the entire duration of the examination including travel to and from the examination.
- Medical Grade Surgical masks (Class 3) will be provided to everyone including candidates, standardized patients, administrators, and assessors. The College has ordered Class 3 surgical masks for distributing to everyone on the exam site if needed.
- A minimum, everyone in attendance will be asked to use a new clean surgical mask daily.
- Candidates are permitted to wear face shield/eye protection or enhanced face mask (N95) if they so choose. These will not be supplied by the College.
- Candidates may be asked to leave the site, and the exam administration voided, if the candidate purposely removes their mask while inside the exam site.
- Masks may only be removed when candidates exit the building or when drinking water with the expectation that the candidate immediately re-covers the mouth and nose when drinking is completed.



Hand Hygiene

- Alcohol based hand rub (hand sanitizer) will be available in every room and area of the exam administration facilities. The hand sanitizer will contain at least 60% alcohol and will be approved by Health Canada under its [list of approved hand sanitizers](#).
- Every person will be required to engage in hand hygiene upon entering the exam site.
- Every person will be required to engage in hand hygiene upon entering an examination station, and just prior to leaving the station.

Outer Protective Clothing

- Candidates will be expected to have fresh, clean scrubs for each day of the examination.
- Candidates are required to wear scrubs with or without a laboratory coat for the duration of the OSCE examination.
- Candidates are permitted to wear a gown (reusable or disposable) on top of their laboratory coats or scrubs.

Protective Barriers

- Plexiglass protective barriers will be found in every patient consultation exam room (station) during the OSCE exam. The plexiglass barriers are 24" W x 36" H x 12" D, which are large enough to provide a barrier between the candidate and the standardized patient.
 - Plexiglass protective barriers will be used for candidate registration in the main lobby for MCQ, OSCE day 1, and OSCE day 2.

Physical Distancing

- Candidates will be spaced apart during the MCQ portion of the examination with tables and chairs at least 2m apart. The College has reserved the largest room - the auditorium including desks and chairs, room 2032, to ensure physical distancing requirements are met.
- The College has also reserved two overflow rooms for the MCQ portion of the examination – rooms 2035 and 2036 – should the need arise for greater spacing.



- The mandatory candidate orientation will be conducted online eliminating the need to meet in person.

Screening Questions and Signage

- Every person in attendance including candidates, standardized patients, administrators, and assessors will be asked screening questions on a daily basis and prior to the start of each portion of the Qualifying Examination. The College will be using the [Ontario Ministry of Health's screening questions](#).
- Signage will be placed throughout the examination area with the following information:
 - Signage informing persons that they will be screened upon entry into the David Braley Health Sciences Centre
 - Signage asking persons who are experiencing symptoms to not enter the exam site and to contact the Exam Administrator
 - Signage requesting all persons to wear a face covering and perform hand hygiene upon entering the exam site.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Patient consultation rooms, high-touch contact surfaces and props are wiped down between candidates using a low-level disinfectant approved by Health Canada.
- Site staff will be performing regular hand hygiene and wearing surgical grade masks.
- All door handles and hard surfaces will be disinfected using a low-level disinfectant after each use.



Roles

Chief Examiner – College’s lead resource person familiar with the profession of denturism and qualifying examinations. Role is to ensure the examination is run smoothly, fairly, and ensure exam security. Will be familiar with all COVID-19 protocols.

Exam Administrator/College Staff – College staff support who is responsible for candidate registration, exam operations, and exam logistics. Acts as liaison with the College of Denturists of Ontario. Familiar with candidate’s contact information. Will be familiar with all COVID-19 protocols including case and exposure management as well as candidate protocols.

Psychometrician – Assists the College with ensuring the exam data and results are valid, reliable, and fair during the exam administration. The Psychometrician will be present during the OSCE portion of the exam to oversee the scoring and collection of test sheets and acts as a subject matter expert when exam issues arise.

Head of the Standardized Patient Program – Owner and operator of the Standardized Patient Program, responsible for everything related to standardized patients and the administration of the exam. Will have a team of staff who assists with the administration of the exam. Responsible for all standardized patient contact information and will be familiar with candidate and OSCE exam COVID-19 protocols.

Exam Assessors – Assists the College with the evaluation of exam candidate’s performance on the exam. All exam assessors are practising licensed health care professionals. As licensed health care professionals, they are familiar with the College’s Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines and are briefed by the College regarding COVID-19 additional precautions.

Standardized Patients – Simulated patients who are given a character/role to play during the clinical portion of the exam. Will be verbally interacting with candidates acting as patients. Will receive training by the Standardized Patient Program regarding additional COVID-19 protocols.

Building administrator (or Staff contact or Security as designated) – David Braley Health Sciences Centre – lead resource person who liaises between the David Braley Health Sciences Centre during the duration of the building rental. The building administrator will have the ultimate authority to make a determination on whether the exam can proceed or to terminate the exam at any point.



Important Public Health Resources

- [Hamilton Public Health Services webpage](#) – updates from Hamilton Public Health Services including local by-laws and restrictions
- [Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 webpage](#) – Updated daily at 10:30 am EST, this website contains the latest information on the status of cases in Ontario, information about the Coronavirus and how Ontario is preparing.
- [Public Health Agency of Canada’s COVID-19 webpage](#) – updates from the Government of Canada including travel advisories
- [Ontario Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 screening questions](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Health’s Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) (Table 7) Guidance Document to determine contact management and classification of risks based on exposure type and setting.
- [Online database of approved hand sanitizers](#) by Health Canada.
- The College’s [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines](#) and [Guide for Return to Practice](#) for general reference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:
Roderick Tom-Ying (416-925-6331 ext. 227 or rtom-ying@denturists-cdo.com)