

**Commission on Dental Accreditation
Unofficial Report of Major Actions
August 6-7, 2020**

Excerpt Related to COVID-19 Directives

The Commission considered the following ongoing operations and the impact on dental and dental related educational programs as a result of COVID-19, and took the following actions:

- *Flexibility in the Accreditation Standards Related to Interruption of Education for All Commission-Accredited Dental and Dental Related Education Programs for the Class of 2021 and Beyond:*
 - The Commission affirmed its intent to extend the current flexibility (i.e., Class of 2020 flexibility) to the Class of 2021; however, the Commission also directed special meetings of all 14 Review Committees and the Commission in Fall 2020 to consider any necessary changes to the current flexibility guidelines for the Class of 2021.
 - The Commission extended the current flexibility for temporary use of distance education through December 31, 2020, with no further reporting required by programs.

- *Consideration of CODA's Ongoing Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Impact on Dental and Dental Related Educational Programs:*
 - The Commission maintained the timelines for ongoing work of various Ad Hoc committees.
 - The Commission directed development of an electronic system to accept applications and other types of program reports (for program submission, CODA staff retrieval, site visitor access, as needed). The Commission further directed that program materials be submitted electronically, solely, upon development of the electronic system. The Commission further directed that, upon implementation of the electronic document submission system, the Commission's acceptance of applications for accreditation be resumed. The Commission further directed that the electronic document submission process be applied to the CODA international PACV process as it is applied to US-based programs.
 - The Commission directed that CODA Hearings on Standards be conducted virtually, at CODA's discretion. The Commission further directed that following a period of one to two years, CODA may consider phasing into online comment submission only.
 - The Commission directed that the Winter 2021 meetings of the Commission be conducted virtually.

- *Consideration of CODA's Ongoing Operations in Response to COVID-19 and the Impact on Site Visits:*
 - The Commission directed that CODA site visitors whose terms end in October 2020 be extended by one year through October 2021.
 - The Commission directed that it pursue alternative site visit methods, as needed to employ in 2021.
 - The Commission directed investigation and development of policies and procedures for alternative site visit methods, with a report to CODA in Winter 2021.
 - The Commission directed that its 14 Review Committees be consulted related to elements of a site visit that may be conducted virtually versus the elements that must be reviewed on-site.
 - The Commission directed appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to study virtual site visits, including development of policies and procedures for the conduct of virtual visits, for consideration by the Commission in Winter 2021.
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