Further CODA Guidance on Interruption of Education Related to COVID-19
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The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) has received further guidance from the United States Department of Education (USDE) following telephone calls with USDE staff on March 24 and 26, 2020. The guidance provides CODA with limited and temporary flexibility to consider modification of CODA's Policies and Procedures, and the Accreditation Standards related to: 1) use of distance education, and 2) alternative assessment and curricular modifications.

The Commission must consider the impact of changes related to the Accreditation Standards, while assuring the continued quality of dental education programs accredited by the Commission. The Commission will determine the degree to which policies, procedures, and temporary modifications to the Accreditation Standards may be permitted and will circulate further guidance based upon the tentative timeline below.

No specific program guidance can be issued until CODA and its Review Committees convene, likely April 13, 2020.

Tentative Timeline for Next Steps by CODA Related to Management of Interruption of Education Based on COVID-19:

- April 2, 2020, CODA to hold closed, special meeting to discuss USDE guidance and determine policies, procedures and Accreditation Standards that should be reviewed.
- April 6-10, 2020, CODA Review Committees to consider potential, temporary guidance to programs and temporary alternatives to requirements of the Accreditation Standards.
- April 13, 2020, CODA to hold closed, special meeting to discuss Review Committee recommendations and issue directive on final, temporary allowances to policies, procedures, and Accreditation Standards.
- Mid- to Late-April, all programs must submit report to CODA related to status of program (reported changes or attestation that program operational as usual).
- Early May, Review Committees convene to consider program reviews.
- Mid-May, CODA to hold closed, special meeting to take action on program reports.