

July 2020 North Carolina Bar Examination

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please see below a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the procedures and administration of the July 2020 North Carolina Bar Examination. As a state agency, the Board is advised that as a government operation, the administration of the bar examination is not subject to the mass gatherings limits in the current Executive Order. As state and local public health directives evolve during the course of the pandemic, these procedures may change to reflect those directives. The Board encourages applicants to review this document frequently to determine if any procedures for the July 2020 bar examination have changed in accordance with government directives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenging decisions for everyone. Each applicant for the July 2020 examination must make his or her own personal decision whether to attend the exam. The Board has endeavored to provide applicants with relevant information to assist in that regard.

1. What protective measures is the Board implementing in accordance with CDC and/or state guidelines for the July 2020 bar exam?

The COVID-19 protective measures for the July 2020 bar exam are contained in the *Notice to Applicants Regarding COVID-19 Requirements, Protective Measures and Assumption of Risk for July 2020 North Carolina Bar Examination*, posted on the home page of the Board's website, www.ncble.org.

2. What documents relating to COVID-19 will applicants be required to submit?

Applicants will be required to submit the following COVID-19 related documents: (1) *Declaration Acknowledging COVID-19 Requirements*; (2) *July 2020 North Carolina Bar Examination Regulations and Code of Conduct*; and (3) *COVID-19 Screening Certification*. Applicants may access these documents by clicking [here](#). Applicants will be required to complete and upload all of these documents on or before 5:00 p.m. on July 21, 2020. If an applicant does not complete and upload these documents by that deadline, the applicant will not receive an Admission Ticket and will not be permitted to sit for the exam. Please note: the *COVID-19 Screening Certification* may not be submitted before July 14, 2020.

3. What protections will be in place for applicants who live in the same household or provide caretaker services for someone who is at higher risk of COVID-19 infection?

The Board is implementing the protective measures as described above. The Board is not able to provide isolation for all applicants who may live in the same household or provide caretaker services for someone who is at higher risk for COVID-19. Any applicant who is concerned about attending the examination due to COVID-19 may, upon

request, withdraw his or her application and transfer the application fee to February 2021 without penalty.

4. How will materials be handled to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 at the July 2020 bar exam?

The Board has modified the check-in and check-out procedures to minimize the hand-to-hand passage of documents and materials between applicants and staff. All staff will be required to wear protective face coverings and gloves throughout the examination, including check-in and check-out.

In a standard exam check-in, applicants would hand multiple documents to check-in staff and would be handed an Exam Photo ID Card and an envelope containing exam supplies. At the July 2020 exam, applicants will upload most of the necessary documents to their secure portals prior to the exam. At the exam, applicants will be required to present a government-issued identification by holding it up for check-in staff to see and will be required to place their Admission Ticket in a designated bin. The applicant will then receive an Exam Photo ID Card and will be directed to his or her assigned seat. The applicant's supply envelope will be at the applicant's seat.

In a standard exam check-out, applicants are dismissed simultaneously and are required to hand a check-out form to check-out staff. At the July 2020 exam, applicants will be dismissed in a staggered fashion, in small groups, and will be instructed to leave the check-out form at their seat. Applicants will be instructed to immediately leave the testing site upon their group's dismissal.

5. Will applicants be required to wear masks at all times during the examination?

Yes.

6. Will applicants be required to bring their own masks?

Yes. Applicants are required to bring a mask that covers the applicant's nose and mouth. The mask may be cloth or disposable, may be any color, and may contain a design or writing, except designs or writing that contain bar review materials or notes prohibited by the Examination Regulations and Code of Conduct. Applicants who are unable to bring a mask or whose mask becomes nonfunctional during the exam will be provided a disposable mask by the Board. Masks that incorporate a clear face shield are permissible.

7. Besides masks, what other protective supplies may applicants bring to the exam?

Applicants may bring one bottle or container of hand-sanitizer for personal use. The hand-sanitizer must be in its original manufacturer bottle or container, but may be any shape, size, or color. The Board will not provide hand-sanitizer at the exam.

8. Will applicants be able to bring their own bottles of water?

Yes. Applicants may bring one bottle or container of water to each exam session. The bottle or container may be any color and any size but must be completely clear so that a proctor or staff member can see through the bottle or container. The bottle or container may contain a design or writing, except designs or writing that contain bar review materials

or notes prohibited by the Examination Regulations and Code of Conduct.

9. What are the sanitizing procedures for common areas and restrooms at the exam?

The Board staff will be disinfecting check-in tables and applicant tables before and after each examination session. The testing location facilities will be cleaning and disinfecting the restrooms and common areas in accordance with recommended guidelines.

10. What is the procedure if an applicant becomes COVID-19 symptomatic during the exam?

Pursuant to the *Declaration Acknowledging COVID-19 Requirements for July 2020 North Carolina Bar Examination*, all applicants are required to report to staff any development of symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and/or new loss of sense of taste or smell) during the administration of the exam, so that appropriate public health measures may be implemented. Also pursuant to the *Declaration Acknowledging COVID-19 Requirements for July 2020 North Carolina Bar Examination*, if an applicant becomes symptomatic while present at the examination site during the July 2020 exam, the applicant's exam will be ended, the applicant will be moved to an isolation room, the applicant's contacts will be traced, public health officials will be notified of the symptoms the applicant is exhibiting and applicants will be required to comply with any all instructions conveyed by said public health officials. The determination whether an applicant becomes "symptomatic" and needs to be removed from the general testing area will be made on a case-by-case basis.

11. If an applicant has been determined to be COVID-19 symptomatic, will other applicants seated nearby be required to stop their exam?

No. Applicant seating is situated to maintain social distancing at the recommended six-foot distance. If an applicant becomes concerned due to COVID-19 during the examination, the applicant may choose to end his or her examination and may, upon written request, transfer the application fee to the February 2021 North Carolina bar exam.

12. If an applicant is not permitted to complete his or her exam due to COVID-19 related symptoms, what happens to the applicant's application fee?

The applicant may request a transfer of his or her application fee to February 2021 without penalty. If the applicant chooses to transfer the application fee to February 2021 exam, the applicant will be required to take all portions of the February 2021 examination to earn a UBE score.

13. Will law schools be allowed space inside the testing facilities to provide food or other services for their applicants?

At previous exams, law schools provided food and other services to their applicants during the course of the bar examination. The Board has no objection to law schools providing such services at the July 2020 bar exam, so long as all social distancing and other protective measures are implemented by the individual law schools, adhered to by their applicants, and it occurs outside the testing venue. The Board would refer applicants to their individual law school for further information in this regard.