

## February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination - FAQs

Please see below a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the requirements and procedures and administration of the February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination. The North Carolina Board of Law Examiners (Board) is currently planning an in-person administration for the examination. As state and local public health directives evolve, these requirements and procedures may change to reflect those directives. The Board encourages applicants to check the Board's website, [www.ncble.org](http://www.ncble.org), frequently to determine if any procedures for the February 2023 bar examination have changed in accordance with government directives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenging decisions for everyone. Each applicant for the February 2023 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.

### *What protective measures are being implemented for the examination?*

The COVID-19 protective measures for the February 2023 bar exam are contained in the *Notice of February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination COVID-19 Requirements and Protective Measures*, posted on the home page of the Board's website, [www.ncble.org](http://www.ncble.org). A copy of this Notice has also been posted to each applicant's secure portal account.

### *What documents relating to COVID-19 will applicants be required to submit prior to the examination?*

Applicants will be required to complete and upload the following documents relating to COVID-19 prior to the examination:

- Declaration Acknowledging February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination COVID-19 Requirements
- February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination Regulations and Code of Conduct
- Incomplete Application Declaration (if applicable)

These forms will be posted to applicants' secure portal accounts. **Applicants must complete and upload these forms on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on FEBRUARY 2, 2023. If an applicant does not complete and upload these forms by the deadline, the applicant will not receive an Admission Ticket and will not be permitted to sit for the examination.**

*The Notice of COVID-19 Requirements for the examination provides that the Board is recommending that Applicants be up-to-date with the COVID-19 vaccines.*

### *What does "up-to-date" with the COVID-19 vaccines mean?*

An individual is considered up-to-date with the COVID-19 vaccines if the individual has completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series and received the most recent booster dose recommended for the individual by CDC.

*The Notice of COVID-19 Requirements for the examination provides that if I have symptoms of COVID-19 on or after February 15, 2023, I may not attend the February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination (regardless of my vaccination status) unless I show proof at check-in for the exam of a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) or Antigen Test for SARS-CoV-2 performed on or after February 19, 2023, showing that I am negative for COVID-19.*

### *What type of COVID-19 Test(s) will be accepted?*

Applicants who develop symptoms of COVID-19 on or after February 15, 2023, may not attend the examination unless the applicant provides proof at check-in for the examination of a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) or Antigen Test for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) performed on or after February 19, 2023, showing that the applicant tested negative for COVID-19. The test must be administered in a laboratory or point-of care setting. Tests performed at point-of-care settings are tests performed at or near the place where a specimen is collected (e.g., at a physician's office, urgent care facility, clinic, or pharmacy). Home tests will not be accepted.

### *What is the procedure if an applicant becomes COVID-19 symptomatic during the exam?*

Pursuant to the *Declaration Acknowledging February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination COVID-19 Requirements*, all applicants are required to report to staff any development of symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, new loss of sense of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting) during the administration of the exam. Also pursuant to the *Declaration Acknowledging February 2023 North Carolina Bar Examination COVID-19 Requirements*, if an applicant becomes symptomatic while present at the examination site during the February 2023 exam, the applicant's exam will be ended. Once the applicant's examination materials have been collected, the applicant will be required to leave the examination building. The determination whether an applicant becomes "symptomatic" will be made on a case-by-case basis.

*If an applicant is determined to be COVID-19 symptomatic during the examination, will other applicants seated nearby be required to stop their examination?*

No. Applicant seating is situated to maintain social distancing during the administration of the examination.

*If an applicant tests positive for COVID-19 or develops COVID-19 related symptoms on or after February 15, 2023, and is unable to attend or complete the exam as a result, what happens to the applicant's application fee?*

If an applicant tests positive for COVID-19 or develops symptoms of COVID-19 and is unable to attend or complete the February 2023 examination as a result, the applicant may submit a written request to transfer the applicant's application fee to the July 2023 North Carolina bar examination. The laptop registration fee will not be transferred, as the Board must pay laptop expense for each applicant who registers and downloads the software, regardless of whether the applicant attends or completes the examination.

*How will materials at the examination be managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19?*

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.

In a standard exam check-in, applicants would hand multiple documents to check-in staff and would be handed an Applicant Name Badge and an envelope containing exam supplies. At the February 2023 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. Applicants will then be asked to certify that they have not tested positive for COVID-19 nor had symptoms of COVID-19 on or after February 15, 2023. The applicant will then receive an Applicant Name Badge and will be directed to the applicant's 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 February 2023 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.

*Is the Board recommending that applicants wear protective face coverings during the examination?*

Yes.

*What type of protective face covering is permitted?*

The face covering 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.

*Besides a protective face covering, 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.

Applicants may also 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 not have any writing or design on it.

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

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

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

At previous exams, some law schools provided food and other services to their applicants during the bar examination. The Board has no objection to law schools providing such services at the February 2023 bar exam, so long as social distancing and other protective measures recommended by public health officials are implemented by the individual law schools, adhered to by their applicants, and the services occur outside the testing venue. The Board would refer applicants to their individual law school for further information in this regard.