



Douglas A. Ducey,  
Governor

# Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners

“Caring for the Public’s Dental  
Health and Professional Standards”

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## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

### Initial Licensing

**Q: As an initial applicant, I received Notice of Incompleteness and have 60 calendar days to submit all missing information. May I have an extension past the 60 days?**

**A:** No, but the only requirement is that you complete another initial application with a new date of when you completed the application. There is no additional fee(s) or burden(s).

**Q: If I am a dental school graduate, or soon to be graduate, may I still apply for and be issued a license without taking the required national examinations?**

**A:** Yes. However, you will still be required to take and pass the national examinations when testing centers re-open. In the meantime, and pursuant to [Governor Ducey’s 2020-17 Executive Order](#), you may be eligible for a provisional license under the following conditions:

- The applicant must meet all other requirements under Arizona Law;
- A provisional license is valid for six (6) months from the date of issuance;
- A provisional license will be suspended 20 days after the in-person testing centers re-open, or the examination(s) otherwise become available, including in an electronic or remote format, unless the applicant passes the required examination(s) prior to license suspension; and
- The provisional license is no longer provisional and becomes a regular license pursuant to Arizona law and administrative code upon successful passage of the required examination(s).

**Q: May any of my fees, for my application, be waived?**

**A:** Yes. Pursuant to Governor Ducey’s 2020-17 Executive Order, you are eligible for the following respective fee waivers:

- Dentist prorated initial license fee: \$110;
- Dental hygienist prorated initial license fee: \$55;
- Denturist prorated initial license fee: \$46;
- Dentist jurisprudence examination fee, excluding the testing center fee: \$300;
- Dental hygienist jurisprudence examination fee, excluding the testing center fee: \$100;
- Denturist jurisprudence examination fee, excluding the testing center fee: \$250;
- Dentist licensure by credential fee: \$2,000; and/or
- Hygienist licensure by credential fee: \$1,000.

## **Renewing My License**

**Q: My expiration date is June 30, 2020. May I have an extension to renew my license.**

**A:** Yes. Pursuant to Governor Ducey's 2020-17 Executive Order, all requirements to renew your license have been deferred by six (6) months from the date of expiration. Therefore, all license renewal requirements must be completed on or before December 30, 2020. That being said, your insurance carrier, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and/or other entities may require a copy of your current license in order to renew those respective certificates/licenses, but the Board will *not* be reissuing licenses with the new December 30, 2020 expiration date. Therefore, please consider renewing on or before June 30, 2020.

**Q: May my renewal fee be waived?**

**A: If you were licensed prior to January 1, 2018,** and pursuant to Session Law 2017, your renewal fee has already been waived, and therefore, you do not have a renewal fee during this renewal cycle. On April 10, 2020, the Board met and voted to waive penalties for failure to notify the Board of an address change. Although the penalties were waived, it is actually not a fee, but a penalty and the Board would like to remind you that you are required, under the Board's statutes, to notify the Board of any address change within 10 days of the change.

OR

**A: If you were licensed after January 1, 2018,** and your license expires on June 30, 2020, the Board met on April 10, 2020 and voted to waive all renewal fees, including any penalty for failure to notify the Board of an address change. Although the latter was also waived, it is actually not a fee, but a penalty and the Board would like to remind you that you are required, under the Board's statutes, to notify the Board of any address change within 10 days of the change.

**Q: Am I still required to complete the statutorily required continuing education ("CE") to renew my license?**

**A:** Yes. However, Governor Ducey's 2020-17 Executive Order, helps in this regard too and does two things to help you complete your CE.

- The requirements to complete CE have been deferred six (6) months. Therefore, all CE must be completed on or before December 30, 2020; and
- The rules limiting you to completing only a portion of your CE online or alternative learning formats have been suspended, and therefore, all CE can be learned online or alternative formats to renew your license; *no* live CE is required.

**Q: May my business entity renewal fee be waived?**

**A:** On April 10, 2020, the Board met and voted to waive business entity renewal fees, including any late fees, which may have incurred.

**Q: May my anesthesia and sedation renewal fee be waived?**

**A:** On April 10, 2020, the Board met and voted to waive anesthesia and sedation renewal fees?

## **General Questions**

### **Q: May I continue to treat patients in a dental office?**

**A:** Yes. However, and pursuant to [Governor Ducey's 2020-10 Executive Order](#), all non-essential or elective surgeries, including elective dental surgeries, that utilize personal protective equipment or ventilators shall not be performed at any licensed healthcare facility or by any licensed healthcare provider in the State of Arizona. The Executive Order will remain in place until further notice.

### **Q: What is considered non-essential?**

**A:** Pursuant to Governor Ducey's 2020-10 Executive Order, a non-essential or elective surgery means a surgery that can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of a patient. A licensed medical professional shall use their best medical judgment in determining whether a surgery is non-essential or elective. In making that decision, the medical professional shall consider the health and age of the patient, especially given the risks of concurrent COVID-19 infection during recovery and the urgency of the surgery. A surgery should not be deemed non-essential or elective if it would threaten the patient's life, threaten permanent dysfunction or impairment of any body part, risk metastasis or progression of staging, or require the patient to remain hospitalized if the surgery was delayed.

### **Q: May I do consultations with patients via teledentistry?**

**A:** Yes. These appointments are required to follow [A.R.S. §§ 32-1201\(24\)](#) and [36-3612](#), which defines teledentistry and delivery of care. All appointments will be held to the same standard as an in-person appointment.

### **Q: How do I report a dental office still open and conducting business as usual?**

**A:** [Please use this link](#) to report a concern related to the practice of dentistry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Once submitted, the concern will be raised, with the compliance team, to determine whether or not the licensee is committing any conduct or practice that constitutes a danger to the health, welfare or safety of the patient or the public in spite of the Governor's Executive Orders. **Please note** that not all complaints will merit an investigation and not all investigations warrant discipline even though the complainant's perception is that it should.

### **Q: Can dentists prescribe chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for presumptive treatment or prevention of COVID-19 infection?**

**A:** Safe prescribing practices do *not* include dentists prescribing chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine. Please refer to the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy's [website](#) for questions.

### **Q: How can I get involved and volunteer for the COVID-19 response and similar emergencies in the future?**

**A:** The Arizona Department of Health Services needs emergency response volunteers to call upon during a time of need. The knowledge and skills you have can help make a difference during this or any disaster. The first step in volunteering is to register with the Arizona Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals ([AZ-ESAR-VHP](#) or <https://esar-vhp.health.azdhs.gov/>). Once registered, request membership into the COVID-19 Response or

other categories of interest. You can also get involved with opportunities by connecting with your [local medical reserve corps](#) by visiting <https://mrc.hhs.gov/FindMRC>.

Additionally, if a healthcare professional wishes to donate any medical supplies, including PPE, all items can be donated directly to their local county health departments or healthcare facilities.

Specifically, if you wish to donate to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), who depends on the generosity of community members like you, they have implemented a donation management program to allow for individuals and/or organizations to donate. Follow [this link](#) for donation drop off location and times, and help spread the word.