

## COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE: Coronavirus and Candidates Planning to Take Upcoming NBEO Examinations

*Released: June 15, 2020*

*NBEO understands the frustrating nature some of you are experiencing in scheduling your upcoming examinations at Pearson Professional Centers. We have also learned that the time communicated to you for seat selection to begin was incorrect. NBEO understands from Pearson VUE that seating selection would begin at 12:00AM EST and it began approximately 1 hour later. We are very sorry for the inconvenience that this may have caused.*

*NBEO is continuing to evaluate options and communicate with Pearson VUE regarding geographic locations that are particularly challenging. We urge you to continue to check that Pearson VUE website [here](#) as availability options may continue to change. Please know that NBEO is doing everything that we can to ensure that candidates have an opportunity to take the examinations.*

The National Board of Examiners in Optometry wants to express our sincere thanks for your continued patience and understanding over the past few months. During this time, we have continued to work closely with Pearson VUE leadership since they announced the temporary closures of their testing centers due to COVID-19. NBEO has considered a multitude of temporary options that would allow our candidates access to the examinations without compromising the integrity of the examination process, standardization, or security. For more information regarding these efforts please click [here](#).

Pearson VUE has taken several steps to expand accessibility. They have increased business hours and opened additional operating days in as many locations as possible. They have also introduced multiple, additional Pearson VUE sites that will be made available to NBEO candidates through the seat selection process. NBEO previously announced that the testing window for Part I ABS normally scheduled as 4 days would be extended to 3 weeks between July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>. We are also expanding the Part I ABS testing window originally scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup> through 20, 2020. This will provide an additional 3-week window open to our Part I ABS candidates. The Part II PAM and TMOD examinations scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> will be expanded to the week of July 13 – 17, 2020. This increased window for both the Part I ABS and Part II PAM/TMOD examinations should provide additional scheduling options during a challenging time.

**Seat selection for Part I ABS July 27 – August 15, Part II PAM/TMOD July 13 – 17 and Part I ABS November 2 – 20 examinations will begin at 12:01 AM EST Monday, June 15, 2020.** Please click [here](#) to select your seat. Candidates that were scheduled for Part I ABS in March have the option between the July – August and November administrations. Anyone wishing to take the Part I ABS examination that was not

registered in the March testing window will need to register with NBEO for the November 2 – 20,2020 administration.

Please be advised that NBEO would recommend that you schedule a seat at the best available location. You can continue to review the Pearson VUE website for additional availability options and potentially change your seat if an opening occurs. Pearson VUE is currently operating at 50% capacity with multiple infection control protocols in place. They are working through a backlog of candidates from many testing organizations, not just NBEO. Therefore, you are encouraged to select your seats as quickly as possible. The COVID-19 situation changes daily and scheduling options at Pearson VUE are also subject to change. If you are unable to select a seat at your first-choice location, then you are encouraged to look at second-choice/third-choice locations for availability.

Candidates who have been approved for accommodation for March ABS or April PAM/TMOD should contact Pearson VUE at 800-466-0450, option 3 to schedule your appointment with the same approved accommodations beginning Monday June 15, 2020. If you have not requested accommodations or have requested accommodations and not been approved, then NBEO will be contacting you about seat selection.

Please continue to check COVID-19 updates on the Pearson VUE website found [here](#) for the latest information. You will find information surrounding health and safety protocols and expectations at the testing centers.

We understand the frustrating nature of COVID-19 and the level of disruption that this has caused to everyone's lives. Please know that NBEO continues to do everything we can to ensure that the examinations are accessible to you. If you have any question, please click [here](#) to contact NBEO.

## NATIONAL CENTER OF CLINICAL TESTING IN OPTOMETRY

The National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO) reopened on May 18, 2020 for candidate testing after a temporary testing suspension due to COVID-19. NBEO has implemented multiple safety measures including mandatory PPE usage, a wellness screening, and disinfection protocols to protect our candidates and staff. Candidates scheduled for examinations will receive an email from NBEO approximately 2 weeks prior to their appointment time detailing the safety requirements and protocols that will be in place upon arrival at the testing center. Please click [here](#) to view the changes in response to COVID-19. You may click [here](#) to contact NCCTO with any questions related to examinations scheduled at NCCTO.

