COVID-19 and the NCLEX  
Testing availability

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Jacklyn Currier, Manager, Exam Operations, NCSBN
Welcome and introductions

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Overview

• NCSBN testing responses to COVID-19
  • Focus on health and safety
  • Efforts to restore testing capacity
  • Some very positive results

• Key tips for candidates

• Questions and follow-up
  • Please use the WebEx “Q & A” panel to enter questions
  • Jacklyn will respond to some via chat during the presentation
  • Jacklyn/Jason will respond to others “live” at the end of the presentation
  • You will also be able to email us afterward
Early response to COVID-19

• Focus on public protection
• Closing of all U.S. and Canadian testing centers (March 16-24)
• Reductions to exam length (March 25 thru at least Sept 30)
• Limited reopening of testing centers (“Emergency Services Channel”)
  • Social distancing
  • Enhanced cleaning
  • Mask requirement
  • Self-assessments for candidates and staff
• Phased reopening of all testing centers subject to above safety measures and state requirements (May 1)
Impact of early response

• Net reduction in testing capacity
  • Typically only half the seats available at each testing center
  • Only partially mitigated by shortened exam
• Having to schedule exams further out (e.g., more than 30 days)
• Having to schedule exams farther away (e.g., more than 50 miles)
• In some cases, having to un-schedule/re-schedule existing appointments
• Expected and predictable given pandemic but not sustainable given importance of exam to nursing and public protection
Efforts to restore testing capacity

• Continuation of modified (shorter) exams
• Extending hours of existing testing centers
  • Lead time required to hire/train additional staff
  • Almost 300 new hires since May 25 with plans to hire 500 more
• Opening of high-capacity U.S. Temporary Testing Centers
• Waivers in several states to increase seating to 100% given other health/safety protocols
# U.S. Temporary Testing Sites

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Seats</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa City, IA</td>
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<td>Westerville, OH</td>
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U.S. Temporary Testing Sites

NEW!
Orlando, FL (45)
opening July 1.
Registration open now!

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Approved expansion to full capacity by July 15

* Utah waiver excludes Salt Lake City
What candidates should know

• Availability is very fluid
  • New seats are constantly being added...
  • ...but they also get taken quickly!
  • Helpful to check back regularly
  • No charge to change/update appointment with one full business day notice

• U.S. Temporary Testing Centers generally have highest availability
  • Automatically appear in “Find an Appointment Search.” No special action required.

• Huge numbers of new appointments coming to waiver states
  • Will be reflected in registration/scheduling system in 1-2 weeks
  • Other states may follow suit

• NCSBN and Pearson VUE are working everyday to open up more appointments
Questions and follow-up

• Now
  • Live Q/A with Jacklyn/Jason

• After the webinar
  • Will review remaining chat questions for additions to our FAQs
  • More questions? Email: nclexwebinars@ncsbn.org
  • A recording of this presentation will be available shortly in the Webinars section of our website at https://www.ncsbn.org/webinars.htm

• THANK YOU!