



NCSBN

Leading Regulatory Excellence

# COVID-19 and the NCLEX Testing availability

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# Welcome and introductions



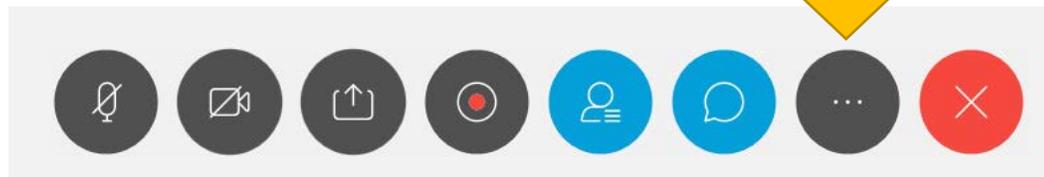
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Director, Test Development, NCSBN



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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)

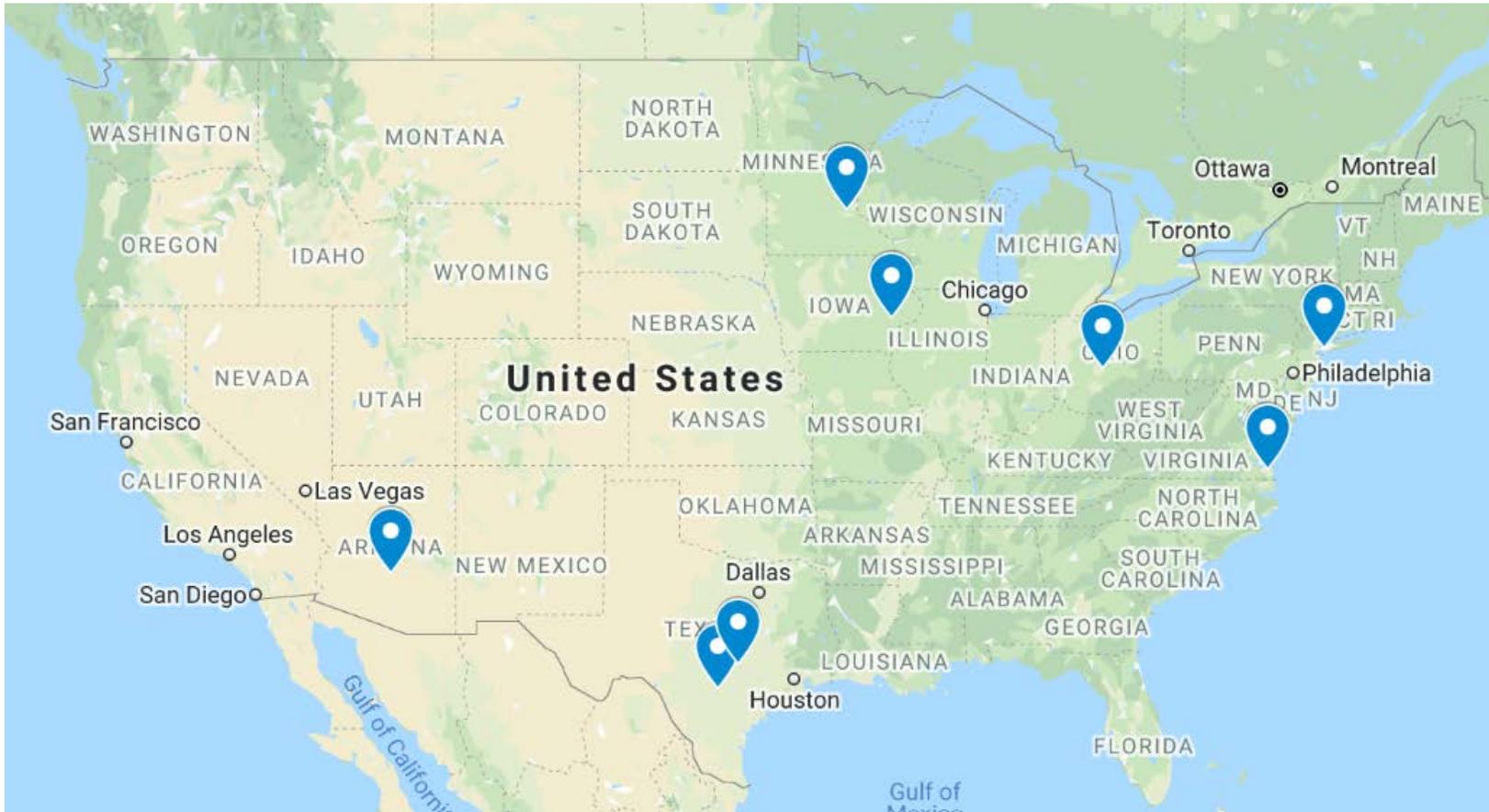
# Impact of early response

- 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

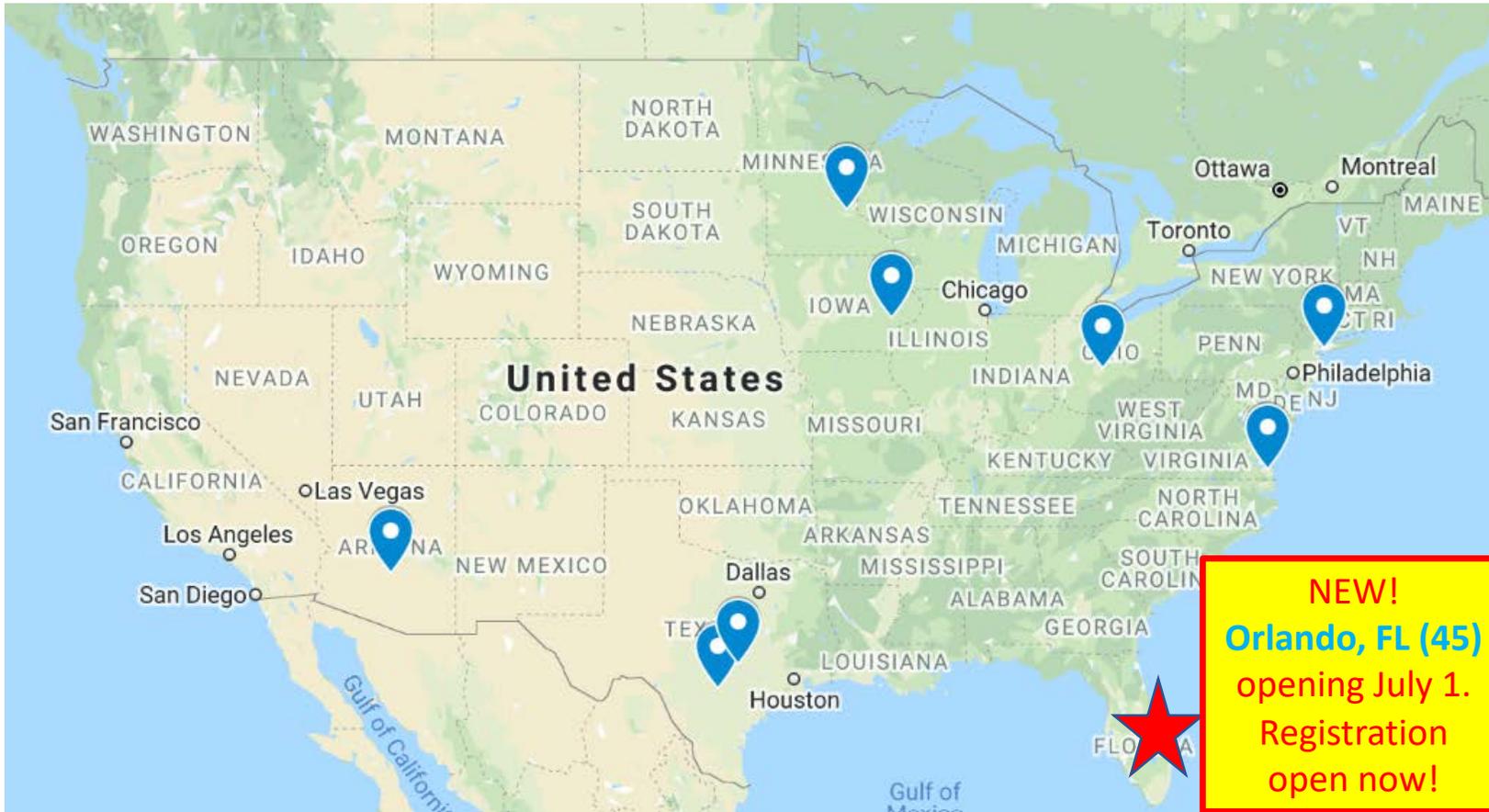
- Continuation of modified (shorter) exams
- Extending hours of existing testing centers
  - Lead time required to hire/train additional staff
  - Almost 300 new hires since May 25 with plans to hire 500 more
- Opening of high-capacity U.S. Temporary Testing Centers
- Waivers in several states to increase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

# U.S. Temporary Testing Sites



Location	Seats
Iowa City, IA	20
Westerville, OH	40
San Antonio, TX	90
Mesa, AZ	30
Austin, TX	54
Norfolk, VA	30
Bloomington, MN	60
Hoboken, NJ	30

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# 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](mailto: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!