



MEMORANDUM

DATE	March 18, 2020
TO	Dental Hygiene Educational Program Directors
FROM	Anthony Lum Executive Officer Dental Hygiene Board of California
SUBJECT	DHBC Statement Regarding COVID-19

Program Directors:

The Dental Hygiene Board of California (DHBC) has been receiving questions regarding mandatory campus closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the evolving recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as by the California Department of Public Health, it has been made clear that in order to continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19 that additional measures must be taken, which includes social distancing. This is a unique situation as our profession involves in-person clinical contact as a part of the requirements for dental hygiene educational programs by the DHBC, as well as by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Currently, as the situation remains fluid, the DHBC is regularly assessing options in close collaboration with the Department of Consumer Affairs in order to make informed decisions regarding academic continuity. Once a firm decision regarding if any changes to requirements has been made, the DHBC will advise all dental hygiene educational programs.

Additionally, as per a "CODA ALERT" sent Friday, March 13, 2020 at 9:43 AM, if your program intends to use distance education modalities for the purpose of managing interruption of education during the COVID-19 period, they ask you to please notify CODA. They stated that temporary use of distance education must be reported to CODA immediately but will not require CODA approval, and that programs are required to submit a Report of Program Change to CODA outlining the use of distance education for the period of interrupted education.

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 1105.3, subdivision (b)(3) requires that any changes that require a report to CODA shall require approval from the DHBC. Therefore, please send the report required by CODA to the DHBC as well.

At the forefront of the DHBC's concerns is the health and safety of the dental hygiene community as well as the academic success of the dental hygiene educational program's participants. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work to support both of these outcomes.