

Government Relations Report February 2021

The Dental Board will continue to meet virtually for at least the first six months of 2021. The meeting dates are:

- May 12/13
- August 19/20
- November 18/19

Dental Assisting Council

Election of 2021 Dental Assisting Council Officers

At its February 25, 2021 meeting the DAC elected Melinda Cazares as Chair and Jeri Fowler as Vice-Chair.

Potential Amendments to BPC1750, Infection Control Course Requirements

At the request of CDAA, CADAT and the DAEGRs, the DAC discussed the infection control course requirements for the unlicensed dental assistant. BPC1750 currently allows up to 12 months for a dental assistant to complete the eight hour dental board approved course. We have requested that this be changed to require the completion of this course *prior to the potential exposure to blood, saliva or OPIM*. The DAC has requested that staff bring back information relative to this topic and be discussed at a future DAC meeting.

Smile Crew California

Anders Bjork from CDA presented information relative to their new program designed to increase the interest in and supply of dental assistants in CA. The task force has developed a four week course to introduce people to dental assisting and provide basic curriculum to allow on-boarding into a dental office, which will be a mix on online and in-person training.

Dental Board

Waivers

On March 4, 2020 when Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency, it allowed the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to waive statutory or regulatory requirements for boards and bureaus. There are a number of waivers, which are posted on both the DBC and DCA websites.

Continuing Education Relief Waiver

The DCA has extended the waiver created by the Executive Order N-39-20 dated March 4, 2020 for licensees renewing between March 1 and March 31, 2021. This allows a temporary waiver for CE requirements for the purpose of license renewal, providing an additional 6 months for the licensee to complete their CE requirements. If you are eligible for this waiver, contact DBC staff.

<https://www.dca.ca.gov/consumers/coronavirus.shtml>

Online CE Restriction Waiver

Effective February 17, 2021 the DCA has waived the current regulatory requirement that at least 50% of continuing education must be live. This waiver extends that restriction to allow up to 100% of CE be taken in non-live format (with the exception of BLS).

<https://www.dbc.ca.gov/licensees/covid19.shtml>

Appointments to the Dental Board

Angie Medina was appointed to the Dental Board as a public member. She has a master's degree in health care administration and is retired from the LA County Health Services.

Online-Only Renewals Effective July 2021

The Dental Board approved the move to online-only renewals effective July 2021. As part of this transition, licensees/permit holders will no longer receive the current renewal notice by mail. Licensees/permit holders will instead be mailed a renewal reminder postcard approximately 90 days prior to their expiration date for each license or permit they hold. To aid licensees/permit holders in this transition, the Board recommends that licensees/permit holders that are not currently registered on the BreEZe system set up their account now to avoid any technological or account issues when renewing a license or permit near the expiration date.

For information on setting up your BreEZe account and renewing online, please visit the BreEZe webpage at: <https://www.dca.ca.gov/splash.shtml> In addition to renewing online, you can apply for a new license or permit and make changes to your information, such as updating your mailing address or requesting a duplicate license. Until the transition, licensees can continue to renew online or by mail. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Board at (916) 263-2300, or by email at dentalboard@dca.ca.gov.

Dental Assisting Programs and Courses

Below are the current number of Programs and Courses in California.

Table 4 Total Approved DA Program and Courses									
RDA Program	RDAEF Program	RDAEF-ITR	Radiation Safety	Coronal Polishing	Pit & Fissure Sealant	Ultrasonic Scaling	Infection Control	DSA Permit	OA Permit
89	11	4	153	70	83	19	78	25	112