

## March 27, 2020 Schools Update, 4:00 PM

### COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

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The Minnesota Board of Cosmetology is actively monitoring the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) outbreak.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is an unprecedented situation and has had an extreme impact on the cosmetology industry and cosmetology schools.

On March 15, 2020, the Board solicited Alternate Learning Plans from schools to track and document initial school responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Board held an emergency Board meeting on Friday, March 27, 2020 to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on cosmetology schools.

Specifically, the Board discussed the following topics and issued the following guidance:

#### 1. Online Theory Instruction

Board motion:

“Until June 1, 2020, the Board will approve all cosmetology schools to temporarily move any scheduled theory instruction online. Schools that pursue this option must report to the Board:

- A written explanation of all changes
- The name of the program/courses impacted by the changes
- The mode of instruction and the textbooks and resources to be used
- The date the change in instruction will take effect

Instruction must follow the training topics within the school’s previously approved curricula and schedule and must relate to the student’s scheduled training. Changes must be reported by April 3, 2020. This process change is effective from March 15, 2020 until June 1, 2020, but the timeframe is subject to change based on any external state or federal orders, and at the Board’s discretion.”

Schools choosing to move theory instruction online or adjust previously-submitted Alternate Learning Plans can report the changes following the guidelines above to [cosmoschools@state.mn.us](mailto:cosmoschools@state.mn.us). Changes must be reported by Friday, April 3, 2020.

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#### 2. Online Practical Instruction

Relevant Statute: [Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 155A.30 Subd. 11 \(b\)](#)

“Instruction must be given within a licensed school building. Online instruction is permitted for board-approved theory-based classes. Practice-based classes must not be given online.”

The Board does not have the authority to waive, vary, or modify statutes. Thus, the Board cannot independently approve an online method for practical education. Additionally, Board staff has been in consultation with a variety of stakeholders and moving technical based learning to a distance model has not been advised.

At the time that this update was published, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 155A.30 Subd. 11 (b) remains in effect. The Board has not received guidance from the Governor's Office, nor has an Executive Order been issued, to allow online practical instruction or to deviate from this existing statute.

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### **3. Live Models vs. Mannequins: Clinical Service Exercises (“Quotas”), Practical Skills Test**

#### **Clinical Service Exercises**

To align with social distancing guidelines, the Board imposed a temporary amendment to the [10-2016 BCE Bulletin: Clinical Service Exercise Protocol](#) to temporarily permit services performed on mannequins to qualify as a Clinical Service Exercise.

Board motion:

“For the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Clinical Service Exercises that can be performed on mannequins will be allowed to count as Clinical Service Exercise quotas. Clinical Service Exercises must not be performed on live models until relevant State restrictions and established social distancing guidelines are lifted.

Schools that choose to continue in-person theory instruction within the school establishment during the pandemic, as allowed by State guidelines, must follow State guidelines related to social distancing and cleaning and disinfecting.”

#### **Practical Skills Test**

To align with social distancing guidelines, the Board imposed a temporary amendment to the Practical Skills Test Guide to permit the use of mannequins.

Board motion:

“For the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic, all service sections of the Practical Skills Test must be performed on mannequins, or the test must not be offered. Service sections of the Practical Skills Test must not be performed on live models until relevant State restrictions and established social distancing guidelines have been lifted.”

Schools that previously submitted an Alternate Learning Plan and will update the plan based on this new guidance, please notify the Board of any changes to Alternate Learning Plans to [cosmoschools@state.mn.us](mailto:cosmoschools@state.mn.us) by April 3, 2020.

The Board continues to be in communication with the Governor's Office and other relevant parties and are actively monitoring the evolving situation. Schools will be provided with any updates or new information as it becomes available.

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