

From: [Commission on Dental Accreditation](#)
To:
Subject: Post-CODA Meeting Directives Related to Site Visits
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CODA Alert

Post-CODA Meeting Directives Related to Site Visits (April 3, 2020)

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) conducted a special, closed meeting on April 2, 2020 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on dental and dental-related education programs, including the impact on site visits. The Commission took the actions below recognizing that the circumstances related to travel and the short- and long-term institutional impact as a result of COVID-19 are evolving. Additionally, CODA-accredited dental and dental related education programs have been significantly affected by COVID-19 and will require time to reinstate pre-COVID-19 curricular and clinical operations and prepare for CODA accreditation site visits. Below is a summary of key actions and guidance for all CODA-accredited programs and program's seeking CODA accreditation, related to the impact of COVID-19 on accreditation site visits.

- The Commission directed that all postponed and remaining site visits through 2020 be canceled and rescheduled in 2021. The Commission further directed that programs that submitted a site visit fee in 2020 and did not undergo a “regular/reaccreditation” site visit receive a refund on the fee, and be reassessed the fee in the year that the site visit will occur.
- Related to “regular/reaccreditation” site visits:
 - The Commission on Dental Accreditation directed that the next “regular/reaccreditation” site visit of every CODA-accredited program, excluding the programs already site visited in spring 2020, be shifted forward by one year. Each “regular/reaccreditation” site visit in subsequent years will also be shifted forward by one year.
 - The Commission further directed that the current status of CODA accreditation held by the educational programs be retained, pending the conduct of the program's rescheduled “regular/reaccreditation” site visit, so long as the program continues to fully comply with the Commission's Accreditation Standards, policies and procedures during the interim period.
- Related to “special focused” site visits:
 - The Commission directed that special focused site visits be postponed until the earliest opportunity to conduct the visit.
 - The Commission further directed that a CODA-accredited dental and dental related education program scheduled for a special focused site visit in 2020 that has been postponed, will retain the current status of CODA accreditation held by the program, pending the conduct of the program's special focused site visit, so long as the program continues to fully comply with the Commission's Accreditation Standards, policies and procedures during the interim period.
 - The Commission further directed that any program scheduled for a special focused site visit as a result of a potential or identified area(s) of non-compliance must submit

a report to the Commission on the area of potential concern, for consideration at the Commission's summer 2020 meeting.

- Related to application site visits:
 - The Commission directed that previously scheduled site visits to programs applying for initial accreditation be postponed until the earliest opportunity to conduct the visit.

- The Commission directed that virtual site visits will not be used at this time.

Please also note that the Commission is unable to process applications for accreditation until further notice.

The Commission office will individually contact programs currently scheduled for site visits to discuss further details. If you have further questions, please contact [Commission staff](#).

COVID-19 Updates

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