

**From:** Commission on Dental Accreditation

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**To:**

**Subject:** Update on Potential Temporary Flexibility in Site Visit Process and Other Accreditation Updates During COVID-19



Commission on Dental Accreditation

CODA Alert

## Update on Potential Temporary Flexibility in Site Visit Process and Other Accreditation Updates During COVID-19

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) staff has received additional [guidance from the United States Department of Education \(USDE\)](#) related to the process of conducting accreditation site visits during the period of COVID-19 impact to educational institutions and programs. In essence, the guidance will allow accreditors temporary flexibility to modify site visit policies and procedures to conduct virtual site visits, to the extent that the agency wishes to do so. Further, the accrediting agency must resume normal practices once the COVID-19 interruption ends, including returning to programs that previously engaged in a virtual site visit to conduct the agency's regular on-site visit evaluation of the program within a reasonable period of time.

Additionally, please note that the Commission staff will again be in contact with the Department of Education in the coming week to obtain further clarification on the flexibility that programs may have with regard to modification of curriculum, requirements, program length, and other areas in accordance with CODA Accreditation Standards, policies, and procedures and the regulations of the Department of Education.

The Commission will be conducting a closed, special meeting in the coming weeks to review CODA protocols and USDE guidance in order to issue a CODA statement to educational programs with further information on the feasibility of temporarily conducting virtual site visits, as well as further updated guidance on reporting use of distance education and reporting interruption of education. The Commission will publish the guidance document(s) following its closed, special meeting.

Additional information will be posted to the Commission's website as available. **Visit the [COVID-19 Updates Page](#) on the CODA website for up-to-the-date information regarding Accreditation and COVID-19.**

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