



## **Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examination Adaptations and Infection Prevention and Control Protocols in response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

The College of Acupuncturists of Alberta (CAA) continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential effect on the April 2021 Alberta Acupuncture Registration Examination (“Registration Examination”), specifically, Part 3 – Safety & Jurisprudence Examination, Part 4 – Modalities Clinical Evaluation, and Part 5 – Acupuncture Points Clinical Evaluation. To ensure the health and safety of candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and support staff, the CAA established the following adaptations and protocols for the Registration Examination. Please note that COVID-19 is an evolving situation and the following adaptations and protocols are subject to change, **candidates must review the following adaptations and protocols carefully**, and are encouraged to check for updates regularly on the [CAA website](#) under Examination.

### **Screening Questionnaire**

- All candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and supporting staff will be required to complete a screening questionnaire prior to participating in the examination.
- Candidates must not attend the examination if they are feeling unwell or exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.
- The questions will include:
  - Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms? Fever, new onset of cough or worsening of chronic cough, new or worsening shortness of breath, new or worsening difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose.
  - Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms? Chills, painful swallowing, stuffy nose, headache, muscle or joint ache, feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite, loss of sense of smell or taste, conjunctivitis (pink eye).
  - In the past 14 days, did you return from travel outside of Canada, or did you have close contact (without personal protective equipment) with someone who is confirmed as having COVID-19?
- Anyone answering “yes” to any of the above questions will not be permitted to participate in the examination. Candidates are eligible for a refund by submitting a written notification to the Registrar within fourteen (14) business days of the examination administration date.
- All candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and supporting staff will be required to complete and sign a waiver from both the CAA and MacEwan University prior to participating in the examination.

## Physical Distancing

- Candidates must respect physical distancing of minimum 2 metres where possible. Tape or other visual cues will be placed at areas where persons are expected to congregate such as sign-in desks to promote physical distancing.
- No loitering or congregating in or around the exam site is permitted.
- Candidates sign-in will be performed in small groups.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

### Donning and doffing procedures

- Candidates must follow proper donning and doffing procedures.
- Proper donning and doffing procedures can be found in the following link from Alberta Health: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6422.aspx>

### Masks

- All candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and supporting staff will be required to use appropriate PPE at all times, including the use of a procedure mask that covers the mouth, nose and chin.
- Candidates will be provided with an ASTM Level 3 ear loop procedure mask at the sign-in desk, if needed.
- Candidates will also have the option of wearing their own mask (if that is their preference), provided that it is, at a minimum, a procedure mask.
- Homemade/cloth masks etc. will **not** be permitted during the exam.
- Candidates are permitted to wear an enhanced face mask (N95), or additional protection such as face shield or eye protection if they choose, these will **not** be supplied by CAA.
- Should the mask become broken or soiled, please notify exam personnel and they will provide a fresh mask.

### Other

- Scrubs and clinic jackets are not required (and are not provided by CAA) but are permitted, if preferable.
- In an abundance of caution, it is recommended that candidates wear clean clothing on the examination days and that they change clothes immediately after completing the exam component(s) for the day.

## Hand Hygiene

- Hand hygiene will be supported by hand sanitizers in all stations and all areas of the exam administration site.
- Candidates are expected to practice hand hygiene regularly.
- Candidates will be required to practice hand hygiene prior to entering and leaving the exam room.

## **Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols**

- High traffic surfaces such as sign-in desk and door handles will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis during examination days.
- Exam rooms will be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning of the day, between candidates, and at the end of the day.
- Items and areas that are touched during the exam will be cleaned and disinfected between candidates.

## **Changes to Part 3 – Safety & Jurisprudence Examination**

- Safety & Jurisprudence Examination will be delivered in small group to ensure physical distancing between candidates.
- April 2021 Jurisprudence Examination is cancelled. Please visit the following link for more information: <http://acupuncturealberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Notice-to-Candidates-%E2%80%93-April-2021-Jurisprudence-Exam-Cancellation.pdf>

## **Changes to Part 4 – Modalities Clinical Evaluation**

- Exam time will be adjusted to 16 minutes per candidate to compensate for the potential time loss in hand sanitizing.
- Prior to entering the exam room, candidates will be reminded to practice hand hygiene.
- Candidates are encouraged to prevent contamination of the hands and refrain from unnecessary contact including themselves and their clothes. Touching of items and/or tools required for examination is permitted. Candidates may be required to perform hand hygiene if significant contamination of the hands is observed. (The exam timer will not stop when you perform hand hygiene.)
- Prior to leaving the exam room, candidates will be reminded to practice hand hygiene.
- For Step 1 – Acupuncture, Step 2 – Moxa on a needle, and Step 3 – Fire-cupping over a needle, candidates will be asked to verbalize the general area where the acupuncture point is located. Candidates should **not** move the foam mannequin or the high-density pad.
- A container filled with water will be prepared by the examiner for candidates to extinguish the flame used for Step 3 – Fire-cupping over a needle. Candidates must **not** remove their mask to extinguish the flame.

## **Changes to Part 5 – Acupuncture Points Clinical Evaluation**

- Exam time will be adjusted to 16 minutes per candidate to compensate for the potential time loss in hand sanitizing.
- Candidates will **not** be asked to locate acupuncture points around the standardized patient's mouth, nose, eyes, genitals and anus, as the virus is found in saliva, fecal matter and mucosa.
- Prior to entering the exam room, candidates will be reminded to practice hand hygiene.
- Gloves are not required but will be provided to candidates if they choose to wear gloves. Gloved candidates will be provided with slightly bigger adhesive dots (3/4") to compensate for the loss of dexterity.

- Candidates **must** prevent contamination of the hands and refrain from unnecessary contact including themselves and their clothes. Touching of items and/or tools required for examination is permitted. Candidates will be required to perform hand hygiene if contamination of the hands is observed. (The exam timer will not stop when you perform hand hygiene.)
- Prior to leaving the exam room, candidates will be reminded to practice hand hygiene.
- Candidates are permitted to bring their own measurement tools for proportionate and straight-line measurement provided that the measurement tools can be properly cleaned and disinfected. Measurement tools must be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering the exam room. A disposable string will be provided for straight-line measurements and a disposable elastic measurement tool (as shown in picture below for illustration purpose only) will be provided for cun measurement, if needed. The elastic measurement tool is approximately 40cm in length, each unit/mark is approximately 2cm.

