

# AARE Examination

## Infection Prevention and Control



Out of an abundance of caution to ensure the health and safety of candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and support staff, the College of Acupuncturists of Alberta established the following infection prevention and control protocols for Registration Examinations.

### Self-Assessment

It is strongly recommended that all candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and supporting staff complete the Alberta Health Services' [COVID-19 Assessment for Albertans](#) prior to participating in the examination.

### Physical Distancing

- It is recommended that candidates respect physical distancing of minimum 2 metres where possible.
- It is not permitted to loiter or congregate in or around the exam site.
- Candidate sign-in will be performed in small groups.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

#### *Donning and doffing procedures*

- It is recommended that candidates follow proper donning and doffing procedures.
- Proper donning and doffing procedures can be found in the following link from Alberta Health Services: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6422.aspx>

#### *Masks*

- It is a requirement that all candidates, examiners, standardized patients, and supporting staff use appropriate PPE at all times, including the use of a procedure mask that covers the mouth, nose, and chin.
- If needed, candidates will be provided with an ASTM Level 3 ear loop procedure mask at the sign-in desk.
- Candidates will 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 a 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.



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### Hand Hygiene

- There will be hand sanitizers in all stations and all areas of the exam and administration site.
- It is required that candidates practice hand hygiene upon entering and leaving the exam room.
- It is required that candidates practice hand hygiene regularly.

### 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 – CAA Safety Exam

- Safety Examination will be delivered in small groups to ensure physical distancing between candidates.
- Jurisprudence Examination is cancelled until further notice.

### Changes to Part 4 – CAA Modalities Exam

- 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 – CAA Acupuncture Points Exam

- 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.
- Candidates are permitted to bring their own measurement tools for proportionate and straight-line measurement. Measurement tools must be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering the exam room, if possible. **CAA will no longer provide measurement tools to candidates.**

