

National Dental Specialty Examination

What to Expect on the Day of the Examination

May 6, 2026 – 7-8 PM ET – Webinar - Questions and Answers

1. I had requested for an address and exam location change to the United States. When will I be notified about the transfer?

Candidates will have received their candidate scheduling confirmation notices. So please, from that email, send an email to NDSE@RCDC.CA, and we will evaluate whether or not the change of location will be operationally feasible at this point.

2. Can I still register for the examination this year as they plan to take the ORTHO Examination? Is there someone that they can touch base with for a follow-up?

Please send an email to NDSE@RCDC.CA and someone will follow up with your question to walk you through the feasibility of next steps and future examination dates.

3. Do candidates require the standard Canadian dental boards as well to practice as an Endodontist in Canada, or does the NDSE suffice?

Currently, the National Dental Specialty Examination is the only requirement as part of the licensing process in Canada.

4. Someone had a question about their examination accommodation request. They did not receive an attachment in their email.

For anybody who has requested and been provided written confirmation previously of their accommodation request, the NDSE unit will be in contact with each one of those individuals. Each one of those individuals will be provided a detailed breakdown of what was previously agreed upon to sign off on prior to the examination date.

5. Will keys be provided for outside lockers? I believe this differs from site to site.

No. It definitely differs from site to site as there's a different sort of infrastructure around this. I would recommend anybody who would want to store their items in a secure locker to bring a lock on site just to make sure, because stored items are kept at candidates' own risk on site.

6. Are we allowed food and beverages to leave in our locker to have during the 30-minute break?

Yes.

7. Can we bring water and a small snack?

You can bring food or a drink into the examination test centre and store it in the onsite lockers. You cannot bring food or drink into the examination test centre room. Further items such as cough drops, as outlined within presentation, please reach out to the NDSE@RCDC.CA in advance so we can confirm the requirements in advance and discuss its operational feasibility.

8. Someone says they've submitted their examination, paid for the exam; however, they haven't received confirmation regarding their test centre.

Please email NDSE@RCDC.CA with that exact question so that we can look into it.

9. How many total questions are there for each examination?

All information that will be provided to the candidates in advance is available in the NDSE protocol, which is available on the website, and I would strongly encourage all candidates to familiarize themselves with both, with that document, especially including the sections related to their specific specialty.

10. How are the multiple-choice questions graded? Are there partial grades or just 0/1 versus 1/1?

I would encourage candidates for this question, and I see the next question following this, to read the NDSE protocol as it will outline all the information related to your specific specialty and general exam information prior to engaging in the examination.

11. Would it be possible to have an exam location in Fort Lauderdale, Florida?

Unfortunately, at this point in the process, we aren't able to add any additional examination test centres.

12. Is it possible to have a water bottle?

Yes, even if it's bringing something such as a water bottle, we would encourage individuals to reach out to the NDSE at NDSE@RCDC.CA just to indicate that this is an item that they

would like to bring into the examination, and we can check with the centre whether this will be permitted.

13. Can we take more breaks during the examination?

There is a 30-minute break between Component 1 and Component 2. Candidates are able to take a break during either of those components, but it's on their own examination time. The examination will not be stopped to take any alternate breaks. Unless it's a previously requested accommodation.

14. Another question on the kinds of question types for their specialty.

Again, all that information that is available to the candidate in advance of the examination can be found on the protocol document, and each specialty has specific information about the question types for that specific specialty.

15. During the break, can they access books or notebooks?

No.

16. Can they review questions that they highlight before they end the examination or before the break?

Candidate is allotted to engage in the examination for each component for a 3-hour period. So, there isn't an additional time beyond that 3 hours per component that if they've highlighted or flagged a question that they are able to take extended time to go back and review those questions. All review has to take place within that 3-hour block. Functionality within the platform allows the candidate to flag questions as they progress through the examination.

17. It was mentioned no bag or luggage; will there be lockers where backpack with wallet and important documents can be stored at the Radiology Examination?

I would recommend that you forward that question to NDSE@RCDC.CA.

18. For the radiology exam, will the lights be turned off or dimmed during the case interpretation portion?

Yes.

19. Is there any chance that a Prometric testing location could open up in Ottawa? I will otherwise be travelling at least 2 hours to the test site.

Unfortunately, at this point in the process, we aren't able to add any other additional examination test centres. The examination test centre partner is Measure Learning.

20. For their specialty, if it's asked multiple-choice questions, it means that there will be no question that requires short answers, correct.

Correct.

21. For Oral Maxillofacial Radiology, will case reviewing and answer reporting be on different separate computers? Will mouses be provided?

Yes, case reviewing and answering into the examination will be on two separate devices, and there will be mouses provided.

22. If the answer is submitted once, can the candidate go back and change it later in the same section prior to moving on to the next section?

Yes. If a candidate is wanting to change their answer within that section, they have the ability to go back and change until they proceed to the break period after Component 1 or until the end of the exam for Component 2.

23. Can they bring their cell phone to the examination centre and leave it in their locker?

Yes, but they will not be able to access it during the break.

24. In previous years, there was a list of references for the Endodontics exams in terms of specific studies to focus on. This year there aren't any references except for textbooks. Can we provide any clarity as to what we are focused on as there is a vast body of literature?

All the information that will be provided to the candidates in advance of the exam is included in the present reference list that was approved by the Examination Teams. So, there isn't any further clarity beyond what's provided in that document and in the protocol and in the policies and procedures that we can provide in advance of the examination.

25. Their middle name was not included in the email they received today in the exam confirmation notice. Only the first and last name is written. Is this going to be an issue on examination day?

No.

26. They cannot bring personal devices and items like cell phones and purses back to the test centre. Does that mean that we cannot bring them to the test centre building? As a–will I be able to use the cell phone to use Uber to reach a test centre and be bringing their bag as they are heading directly to the airport after the exam?

Candidates are allowed to bring personal items including cell phones into the test centre, but they will have to remain in the locker/storage area there. The reason why we do not recommend candidates bring luggage to the examination test centre is because there are varying levels of storage within those sites. Some, and not all of them, have the ability to store a number of different large luggage pieces. So, in terms of bringing the cell phone, you can bring your cell phone to the test centre and leave it in the locker. And as I've said, you cannot access that cell phone or personal device until after the examination is complete. In terms of the luggage piece, if you want to send an email to NDSE@RCDC.CA, we can see if we can check with your specific test centre to see what additional storage might be available, given that you'll be leaving directly from the airport or to the airport.

27. Someone today said that they did not get a location, they only got a confirmation.

Please email NDSE@rcdc.ca.

28. To be confirmed, whatever is written in the notes section is not going to be part of graded like the examination?

No.

29. How does the grading system work and are candidates limited to 3 attempts?

There is at present no attempts limit for the NDSE.

30. After receiving the registration letter, what do we want them to sign off on?

There is no requirement to sign off on any of the documentation. You are required to bring that documentation to the examination test centre on the day of your examination along with valid photo ID.

31. Can they apply for the oral examination once they pass the written examination?

For the NDSE, there is no Oral or OSCE component.

32. What is the historical pass rate?

At the end of each exam cycle, the NDSE produces an NDSE Technical Report that is available on the website. The technical report is there from 2024 and 2025. There are pass rates from previous exam cycles for specialties with candidate cohorts for greater than 10 candidates.

33. Will computers will be provided at the exam centre?

Yes.

34. Are there retake dates for the exam, or are they administered once a year?

The NDSE is administered only once a year.

35. This individual has said that their exam doesn't have an examination language assignment; should they assume that it is in English?

From whatever document or information that you're seeing, please send an email NDSE@rcdc.ca.

36. Can they have unscheduled breaks? And if so, what's the protocol for that?

The unscheduled break process would be to identify to the proctor that you were requesting a break, if this is not related to an accommodation request. You will be monitored by the proctor during the break. And if you are selecting to take a break that is not part of an accommodation and is outside of the standard break period in between components, that time is on the time of the candidate taking the examination. You will not get additional time at the end of the examination to make up for your unscheduled break if it is not part of an accommodation.

37. Does the test centre provide earplugs?

No.

38. We mentioned short answer questions. Does this apply to all specialties like we previously mentioned?

I would strongly encourage that you review the protocol document as it identifies the type of questions used for each specialty.

39. Can we please clarify the rules around cell phones? I imagine you can bring it but not into the examination room.

You are able to bring a cell phone or personal device into the examination test centre. You are allowed to store it in the locker at the candidate's own risk. And you will not be able to access your cell phone or mobile device until after the examination has been submitted and completed.

40. Someone would like to know if they can wear earmuffs as earplugs are awful and hurt their ears. Could this perhaps be an accommodation?

I think for something along those lines, if you could reach out to the NDSE unit and just start that dialog, we want to ensure that the examination test centres are aware of any situation or anything that a candidate might be bringing into the examination test centre so we can support that candidate engage in the examination.

41. How long does it take for notification of results?

As presented, August 11, 2026, is when the results will be published.

42. Is my exam already registered for the said centre in the confirmation document, or do we have to register at the Prometric Test Center website?

Our examination test centre partner is Measure Learning. There is no further registration or action required by the candidate unless you are requesting a test centre change, which will be evaluated based on operational feasibility, or you are planning to withdraw from the examination.

43. Is it possible that the number is not written on the documents? Also, is it possible to explain how the negative correction works?

I would direct the candidate back to the NDSE protocol. It will outline the marking, the question type, details on the specific specialty blueprints, and all the examination information that will be available to the candidate in advance of engaging in the examination is available in that document.

44. Someone read the NDSE protocol document beforehand and couldn't find the number of questions in that document.

The number of questions varies from specialty to specialty and year to year. And we do not provide that information in advance.

45. What is the feasibility of an exam centre being changed at this point?

Please reach out to the NDSE unit and we will evaluate the operational feasibility.

46. Will a mouse be given for the Radiology examination?

Yes.

47. Will the lights will be turned off for the Radiology examination?

Yes.

48. For Orthodontics, will the cephalometric values be used be the same that was provided for the fellowship examination?

I can't speak to what was provided for the fellowship examination, but I would direct the candidate back to the NDSE protocol. All the information that will be provided to the candidates in advance regarding the examination is available in the NDSE protocol.

49. Again, the protocol does not say anything about the estimated number of questions, just says two-part, 6-hour exam.

This information will not be provided in advance.

50. When were examination test centres information sent out? I have not received and they want to check their spam.

Candidate scheduling notices were sent out over the course of the last week. If that particular candidate or any candidate who has a similar question or feels they're in a similar position as this individual, please reach out to the NDSE unit (NDSE@rcdc.ca) and we will look into the matter accordingly.

51. If there is a problem at the testing centre like inclement weather where the exam cannot be administered, will there be another opportunity this year to take the exam or will they need to wait until next year? Will there be a cost?

If there is a significant procedural irregularity or significant extenuating circumstances, we would have to evaluate it on a case-by-case basis. There are different exceptional circumstances that we would need to evaluate, and if a candidate was in a position where they were impacted by extreme extenuating circumstances as evaluated by the NDSE Committee, we would work to find a solution at no additional cost to the candidate.

52. Can they go to the bathroom during the exams?

Using the bathroom during the examination would be considered the same as an unscheduled break period. If the candidate did request to use the bathroom during either Component 1 or Component 2 outside of the standard break in between the two components, this would be on the candidate's own time.

53. How many attempts do they have?

There is no attempt limit presently on the NDSE.

54. If they fail, do they need to pay the full registration fee again to take the exam the following year?

Candidates who are retaking the examination do not have to pay the candidate management fee as they had been credentialed in the previous exam cycle, but they do need to pay the full examination fee.

55. If they finish their first part quicker than 3 hours, can they start the second part as soon as their 30-minute break is done?

Yes

56. Question about the address provided of a specific test centre is not the same as the address found on Google slash the company's website.

I would recommend that you email NDSE@rcdc.ca.

57. Are there calculators available in the examination interface?

Yes.

58. Examination language is blank on their confirmation email.

Your examination is scheduled for the same language you candidate scheduling confirmation notice was provided in.

59. Is one form of identification enough or is a secondary ID required?

One form of identification enough as long as it's a valid piece of identification that is included in the list that we provided and is included in the NDSE protocol.

60. Will they be given a bit scratch paper or whiteboard to draw on?

The examination test centres will not provide scrap paper. You will have the note function on your computer, which is just for you and is not marked. And there will be no whiteboard.

61. Aside from the ID and the confirmation email, is there anything else to bring to the examination?

No.

62. How many times can this exam be taken if we do not pass?

There is no attempt limit for the NDSE.

63. Do they need to print out the email that they received or can they just bring up their ID?

They need to be providing in either an electronic format or in a hard paper copy of the confirmation notice to the examination test centre site.

64. Another question about the location; they had requested a location change a month ago and today received an email with their original location, not the one they requested to change to. They just want to make sure that today's location is final.

Please reach back out to the NDSE unit for confirmation.

65. A question regarding the CEP values for the orthodontics exam is not in the protocol document. I just read it.

Information that is provided to the candidates in advance of the examination is located in the reference lists and the protocol.

66. How much is registration fee that is not required to be paid next year of applying in case of failure?

Candidates that have previously been approved through the Candidate Management Process and were unsuccessful in the examination are not required to pay the Candidate Management Fee on subsequent attempts.

67. Will there will be table and chairs for lunch at the test centres?

This will vary based on the specific test centre.

68. For the oral radiology exam, the test site is a sizable building. Will someone direct us on arrival or will there be signage?

Yes. There'll be both signage and someone to direct you to the correct location within the location.

69. Is there any response needed from us to send you to confirm that we will attend the examination?

No.

70. Regarding the percentage of success of 2024 and 2025, where is the data? I looked in the documents and protocol, couldn't find it. Is it possible to explain where to find it?

In the technical report of both the 2024 technical report and 2025 technical report, the pass rates of those specialties that have candidate cohorts of greater than 10 candidates are available within those documents. If you go into the NDSE website under resources, one of the links is to the technical reports.

71. Will a recording of this webinar will be available?

Yes, we're going to aim to put the recording up within the next 5 calendar days and we will also transcribe the Q&A and post it as well. It might take 1 or 2 days longer, but all within that time frame.

This concludes the webinar. Again, if you have any questions, please email NDSE@RCDC.CA.