

COVID-19 RELATED EXAM PRECAUTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners is committed to the safety and health of its examinees, proctors and staff. The following testing conditions will be in place for the February 2023 bar exam. The Board will continue to review guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and other health experts regarding COVID-19 precautions. The Board will update this document with a final decision regarding a mask requirement and provide other updates, if it determines that new circumstances warrant adjustments. There is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any place where people are present.

Applicants, proctors and staff have an obligation to comply with all applicable health orders and exam protocols.

1. Applicants are required to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If an applicant has tested positive for COVID-19 and has been advised to isolate, or has been exposed to COVID-19 and has been advised to quarantine by health professional, the applicant is prohibited from coming to the exam site or sitting for the examination. The applicant may seek a medical withdrawal from the exam from the Board within two weeks of the exam upon documentation of either of these circumstances.
2. The Board will assign staggered arrival times for examinees. Proctors will not permit examinees to enter prior to their designated arrival time.
3. All examinees will receive an assigned seat. Candidates testing under standard conditions will be seated two per eight-foot table.
4. Proctors will conduct check-in at examinees' seats. Examinees must sit quietly at their assigned seats during this process. If a restroom trip is necessary during this time, an applicant may use the restroom only after the proctor has verified their ID.
5. If the Board deems that it is warranted, it will require applicants at all exam locations to wear masks upon arrival and throughout the examination. Masks must be worn properly. Please review the CDC guide for masks. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>.

If a mask requirement is imposed by the Board, it will require an applicant to wear a mask provided by the Board if the candidate does not have an appropriate mask. Proctors may ask applicants to remove their mask briefly to confirm their identity. Face shields would be permitted, but will not be a substitute for a mask.

If a mask requirement is imposed, any applicant seeking an exemption from the mask requirement due to a disability must submit that request before January 1, 2023, and must include medical documentation.

Thank you for your cooperation with these important safety precautions.