

FINDING OF EMERGENCY

The Board of Dental Examiners finds that an emergency exists under AS 44.62.250 requiring an immediate change to the dental hygienist licensure process and that an emergency regulation change is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency include the following:

Alaska is currently experiencing an unprecedented shortage of dental hygienists and new applicants for a dental hygiene license are unable to take the necessary exam required by regulations without extreme expense, delay and hardship. The Alaska regulatory requirements require a live-patient exam to obtain a dental hygiene license. Alaska is one of only two states remaining with this requirement. The other 48 states allow substitution of a mannequin exam. Of the 3,000 exams given nationwide so far this year, only 95 have given a live-patient option; of all the national sites applying for an exam next quarter, only two are asking for a live-patient or hybrid exam. The testing agencies, due to COVID restrictions and low demand, are either not offering live patient exams or are cancelling these exams without providing a substitute venue. Alaska regulations require a standard that is suddenly not readily available, creating a shortage in dental hygienists, which is impacting public health.

ORDER CERTIFYING ADOPTION

I certify that the Board of Dental Examiners, under the authority of AS 08.32.014, AS 08.32.070, AS 08.32.110, and AS 08.36.070 adopted at its August 26, 2022 meeting the attached two pages of regulation changes as an emergency regulation to take effect immediately upon filing by the lieutenant governor, as provided in AS 44.62.180(3).

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: 8/29/2022

DocuSigned by:



David Nielson, DDS, President
Alaska Board of Dental Examiners

April Simpson for

FILING CERTIFICATION

I, Kevin Meyer, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, certify that on August 31, 2022 at 11:20 a.m., I filed the attached regulation according to the provisions of AS 44.62.

for 
Kevin Meyer, Lieutenant Governor

Effective:

August 31, 2022

Register:

243, October 2022.

Expires December 28, 2022
unless made "permanent"
by the adopting agency