

**From:** Zehle, Christa H <[Christa.Zehle@med.uvm.edu](mailto:Christa.Zehle@med.uvm.edu)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 5:46 PM

**Subject:** FW: Letter sent to Dean's from NBME's President & CEO, Dr. Peter J. Kastsufrakis

Dear Students,

Please see the message from NBME's President & CEO, Dr. Peter J. Kastsufrakis regarding USMLE Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 exams. I am sending to all students so that you are all aware and since some co2020 graduates may be attempting to take Step 3 after their degree has been conferred.

With appreciation,

Christa Zehle

**From:** NBME Medical School Services [<mailto:medicalschoolservices@nbme.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 5:25 PM

**Subject:** Letter sent to Dean's from NBME's President & CEO, Dr. Peter J. Kastsufrakis



Dear Colleagues,

We recognize that the disruptions to USMLE testing present an extraordinary challenge for you and your students. Finding a means to restore USMLE testing is our top organizational priority. Our goal is to collaborate with you and your faculty to determine how to assure rapid and safe resumption of testing across a variety of venues.

*Status on Prometric testing*

We are receiving reports that several Prometric test centers are erroneously listed as open, so some examinees with confirmed slots were met with closed centers when Prometric resumed limited testing on May 1st. This has led to a confusing and difficult situation for examinees. We are deeply disturbed by the experience your students and faculty are having and are working to immediately find resolution to these issues.

We have been and continue to be in daily contact with Prometric to represent the needs of the examinees and faculty to improve the execution of the safe resumption of testing and Prometric's communication with examinees. I have spoken directly with their CEO, Roy Simrell and shared our dissatisfaction with the current situation and the need for a clear and immediate plan. We have emphasized the impact their actions have on this critical community and the need to ensure examinees are provided timely and reliable information.

We expect capacity constraints and challenges to continue. For this reason, as previously announced, we are working hard to design and deliver solutions outside of Prometric test centers.

*Alternate delivery of USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3*

We have several efforts underway to deliver supplemental testing and accelerate our publicly stated timeline to provide a solution. We are exploring remote proctoring,

delivery at alternate sites (including medical schools), and additional solutions to resume testing and to address testing backlog and capacity constraints. We have incorporated the suggestions and ideas we have received from medical students, medical school faculty, state medical boards, and our partners in this work, and will seek to partner even more closely with medical schools as we move forward with implementation. We expect to have better insight on feasible alternatives and associated requirements within the next week. We continue to welcome your ideas and suggestions - please send them to us at [usmle@nbme.org](mailto:usmle@nbme.org). We will continue to provide at least weekly updates of our progress at [usmle.org](http://usmle.org).

### *Step 2CS*

We are dedicated to finding a testing solution for Step 2CS that assures the safety of examinees and standardized patients as our top priority. We have a dedicated team exploring innovative and disruptive solutions to resume Step 2CS Examinations. This includes options that alleviate your students' need to travel to examination centers. We expect to have more news next week.

### *Partnership*

We have been in continuous contact with AAMC and others in the medical education and licensing community to advocate for potential temporary changes to policy and/or requirements, e.g., relaxing requirements for promotion, graduation, or licensing decisions. Working together we can respond to the challenges wrought by the Covid pandemic and ensure the continued excellence of America's future physicians.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Katsufraakis, MD, MBA  
President and CEO

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NBME, 3750 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Sent by [medicalschoolservices@nbme.org](mailto:medicalschoolservices@nbme.org) in collaboration with

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