

**From:** COMStudentAffairs  
**Date:** March 17, 2020 at 4:48 PM EDT  
**Subject:** Step 1 Exam Update

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Dear M2s,

The below statement was released today from Prometric Testing Centers, which directly affects your ability to take the Step 1 exam as scheduled.

*“Within the past 24 hours, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have issued updated guidance on measures to be taken to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 disease. In particular, the CDC lowered the number of people that should be able to congregate in the same space from 50 to 10 in the United States. Given this new guidance, Prometric has determined it is necessary and appropriate to **temporarily close our test centers in the United States and Canada for a period of 30 days, starting March 18.** This step is being taken to further protect the health and well-being of the individual test takers and our staff. We anticipate re-opening our test centers effective April 16.*

*If you have an existing appointment with Prometric, you will receive email instructions on how to reschedule your appointment to a future date once it is safe to resume testing. No rescheduling fees will be applied. We are working with your exam sponsor to ensure all program requirements are met. Please note that if you choose to contact Prometric for assistance, hold times may be extended due to the volume of individuals we are attempting to support. We thank you for your patience.*

*If you are looking to schedule a new appointment, you can search for available appointments on our website, [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com). Note that appointments in the US and Canada will not be available until April 16 at the earliest.”*

We understand that this news may cause you additional stress and we are here to support you. We also want to assure you that we will make any necessary modifications to our deadlines to ensure that the closing of the Prometric testing centers will not impact your progression through our curriculum. With that said, this situation is extremely fluid and we are making necessary adjustments on a daily basis. We are awaiting further guidance from the NBME and AAMC in order to determine the next steps in response to the coronavirus pandemic. We recognize that the uncertainty of the near and more distant future is quite disconcerting, but we remain a tight-knit community and are available to support you in any way that we can. We will e-mail you with further updates once available. In the meantime, Dr. Michelle will be sending a USMLE Step 1 Course email with strategies and suggestions for utilizing the additional study time. You should contact Dr. Michelle if you feel you need additional guidance on how to best use this additional study time to continue your Step 1 exam preparation.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stuart L. Markowitz, M.D.  
Sarah K. Wood, MD  
Jennifer W. Caceres, MD

Offices of Student Affairs and Medical Education