



FSMTB
FEDERATION OF STATE
MASSAGE THERAPY BOARDS

Dear FSMTB Members –

As you are well aware, navigating a world with COVID-19 is new for all of us and is subject to daily and sometimes hourly changes as we escalate measures to protect health and safety.

Many massage schools across the country have closed for an undetermined amount of time or are figuring out how to continue with distance education. Many licensed massage therapists have stopped all client contact. Our members are working under new circumstances such as employee travel restrictions, increased sanitation inspections, and enacting temporary regulations for the national emergency response. In the latest major development impacting the massage community, Pearson VUE, our partner that delivers the MBLEx, has closed all test centers effective immediately.

Here's a brief summary of recent actions from FSMTB:

- Member Board Executive Summit is cancelled.
- Strategic Planning meeting is postponed.
- All non-essential FSMTB travel is cancelled until further notice.
- All in-person committee meetings are canceled in favor of virtual meetings.
- FSMTB Kansas City and Nashville offices are preparing to work remotely.
- Supporting our members in any way we can, such as several recent requests for information about online learning due to school closures.

Here's what FSMTB is telling you at this moment regarding the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination:

- Since nobody can test, the FSMTB has stopped issuing authorizations to test (ATT).
- When test centers reopen, FSMTB will resume issuing authorizations to test (ATT).
- When test centers reopen, candidates who were already authorized to test will receive new authorizations with another 90-days to schedule their appointment.
- No fees will be incurred for any rescheduling.
- The MBLEx fee increase will NOT be implemented on April 1, 2020. The cost of the MBLEx is \$195 until further notice.

Here's what licensing exam candidates can do - contact the FSMTB for information. We will be telling them the following:

- If they have not yet applied to take the MBLEx – we recommend that they wait.
- If they have applied to take the MBLEx and have not received an authorization to test – no action is necessary at this time. FSMTB has processed their application but will not issue any authorizations to test until test centers open up again.
- If they have applied to take the MBLEx and have been authorized to test but they have not yet made their appointment to test – no action is necessary at this time. Once test centers open up again, FSMTB will issue them a new authorization to test, giving them a new 90-day window to schedule their appointment.
- If they have applied to take the MBLEx and have made an appointment to take the test - no action is necessary at this time. Pearson VUE has canceled or will cancel their appointment. Once test centers open up again, FSMTB will issue them a new authorization to test giving them a new 90-day window to schedule their appointment.

Other Services:

The MBLEx Study Guide is still available. This could be a good time for candidates to prepare for the exam and keep knowledge fresh. Go to www.fsmtb.org/mblex/study-guide/order/.

The MBLEx Check online practice exam is available through the Regulatory Education and Competence Hub (REACH). Go to <https://reach4ce.org/index>.

Online courses, such as Cultural Competence courses, required by some states for license renewal, are available through REACH. Go to <https://reach4ce.org/index>.

The staff at FSMTB in the Kansas City and the Nashville offices are working diligently to keep providing services as much as possible as circumstances allow. We are preparing to work remotely and so email is likely going to be the best way to reach us.

None of us knows how long the isolations and temporary measures will be needed or how long the closures will last. Thank you to our board of directors who are taking care of FSMTB business as well as the needs of their own state boards and their families. And thank YOU for your understanding and patience as we work to support you and do our individual and collective part to slow the pandemic.

If you have ideas for ways that the FSMTB can support our regulatory community and each other during this time, please let us know. You can email me directly at dpersinger@fsmtb.org or through our general contact address at info@fsmtb.org. We'd love to hear from you.

On behalf of the FSMTB board of directors and staff,

Debra Persinger, PhD
Executive Director

STAY CONNECTED



FSMTB

7300 College Boulevard, Suite 650
Overland Park, KS 66210