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THE AMERICAN BOARD *of* PEDIATRICS
Certifying excellence in pediatrics – for a healthier tomorrow

To: American Board of Pediatrics Exam Candidates and Members of the Pediatric Community

August 2020 Subspecialty Exams

July 30, 2020

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Board of Pediatrics has adopted the position of supporting pediatricians, including trainees, certified physicians, and candidates for the certifying exam.

The latter group has faced particular challenges with the pandemic's shifting surges, making it difficult to plan for an exam. Many of you have written to us, and we hear you. Some desperately want to postpone the exam, and others desperately want to take the exam as scheduled.

A national exam cannot fit every personal and local circumstance perfectly. Therefore, we offer [complete flexibility](#) to candidates to take the exam if they wish or cancel the exam for a full refund and an extension of eligibility if that proves to be the safer course amid COVID-19. We urge every candidate to consider their health first in making this decision. [Prometric testing centers](#) are following the best public health standards to protect all examinees. Nevertheless, it will be up to every candidate to make the best decision based on local conditions and personal circumstances.

Recently, some have written to us fearing adverse consequences in privileging, promotion, bonuses, performance reviews, etc. if they postpone taking the exam due to the pandemic. In partnership with the pediatric department chairs in the country, we want to assure all candidates, including those who defer the exam, that the pediatric community supports you during this stressful time. Please reach out to your chair, division director, or other leaders in your institution for advice. We are confident that you will find overwhelming support and that no one in leadership will want you to sit for the certifying exam now if you do not feel it is safe to do so.

The ABP staff remain available to assist at sscert@abpeds.org.

Sincerely,

David G. Nichols, MD, MBA
President and CEO
American Board of Pediatrics

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