

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
COVID-19 Guidelines for Asbestos and Lead Abatement
Examinations

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in responding to the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that is causing an outbreak of respiratory illness worldwide.

We are committed to protecting public health and providing a safe environment when you take your Asbestos or Lead Abatement examination(s).

Your help is needed to protect your health and safety and those who will be taking the exam with you. Please read the following information in preparation for your examination.

You are required to do a Self-Screen for COVID-19 before going to the examination site.

Click on this link for the COVID-19 Self-Screening document and instructions. To help ensure the health and safety of yourself and others, and to decrease the spread of the virus, do not go to the examination site if you:

- Checked any of the symptoms or settings on the Self-Screening document.
- Have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days (close contact is considered being closer than 6 feet to someone else for 15 minutes or longer); or
- Have traveled outside of the United States in the past 14 days.

Reschedule your examination(s):

- 14 days after your symptom(s) of COVID-19 have resolved; or
- 14 days after your last close contact with a person with COVID-19 (close contact is considered being closer than six feet for 15 minutes or longer); or
- 14 days after you have returned from your travel outside of the U.S.

The examination fee will be applied to your rescheduled examination(s).

In accordance with the Governor's most recent guidelines for Employer and Event Organizers, no more than 50 percent of a facility's total listed occupancy will be allowed to register for the examination based on the location, so that a minimum of six feet between the examinees and the examination proctors can be maintained.

For additional COVID-19 information, go to the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas website <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>

You are encouraged to click on the following links and read these documents:

**[Best Health Practices to Avoid COVID-19
Special Guidance for Texans Over 65](#)**

This document also includes guidelines for individuals over 65 with medical issues like heart disease, diabetes, cancer or weakened immune systems.

If you are considered high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 according to the CDC [Older Adults and COVID-19 | CDC](#) guidelines or you are over the age of 65 or have a chronic medical condition, enter "yes" when you register for your examination(s). Special accommodations will be made for you at the examination site.

On the day of the examination, you will need to:

- 1) Bring your own pen(s) or pencil(s).
 - a. Pens and pencils will not be available at the examination site.
 - b. The sharing of pens and pencils will not be allowed.
 - c. A failure to bring a pen or pencil will result in you being asked to leave the examination site. You will need to reschedule your examination.
- 2) Bring hand sanitizer and a face covering with you; wearing a face covering is required in accordance with Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order 29. <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>
 - a. Face coverings will not be provided at the examination site.
 - b. The sharing of face coverings will not be allowed.
 - c. A failure to bring and wear a face covering will result in you being asked to leave the examination site. You will need to reschedule your examination.
- 3) Arrive at least 60 minutes before the scheduled examination time; it will take longer than usual to sign-in.
- 4) Follow the examination proctor's instructions when:
 - a. Entering and leaving the building and conference room;
 - b. Waiting in line;
 - c. Being asked if you completed the COVID-19 Self-Screening, and
 - d. Signing in for the examination.
- 5) Maintain six feet of social distancing when:
 - a. Entering and leaving the building and conference room;
 - b. Waiting in line;
 - c. Being asked if you completed the COVID-19 Self-Screening, and
 - d. Signing in for the examination.
- 6) Be prepared for the proctor to ask you if you completed the COVID- 19 Self-Screening.

- a. If you completed the screening and did check on any of the symptoms/settings listed in the COVID-19 Self-Screening form, the proctor will approve you to go to the sign-in area.
 - b. If you placed a check on any of the symptoms/settings and still decide to go to the examination site:
 - i. The proctor will not approve you to take the examination.
 - ii. The proctor will not allow you to go to the sign-in area.
 - iii. The proctor will ask you to leave the examination site and reschedule your examination(s).
 - iv. Your examination fee will be applied to the rescheduled examination(s).
 - v. You will need to make sure you complete the COVID-19 Self-Screening before going to the examination site for your rescheduled examination.
 - c. If you did not complete the screening and go to the examination site:
 - i. The proctor will not approve you to take the examination.
 - ii. The proctor will not allow you to go to the sign-in area.
 - iii. The proctor will ask you to leave the examination site and reschedule your examination(s).
 - iv. Your examination fee will be applied to the rescheduled examination(s).
 - v. You will need to make sure you complete the COVID-19 Self-Screening before going to the examination site for your rescheduled examination.
- 7) Be prepared to not leave your seat after you have signed in and taken your seat unless you receive permission from a proctor to go the bathroom.
- 8) Know that you will not be able to use any water fountains.
- 9) Be aware that once a proctor announces that the examination is over, the proctor will instruct one section at a time to line up, row by row, six feet apart, at pre-marked spots away from their section.
 - a. A proctor will collect the examination materials.
 - b. Once the examination materials are accounted for a section, you will be dismissed, row by row.
 - c. This staggered release will allow you to exit the building while easily maintaining a six-foot distance between yourself and others.
- 10) You must raise your hand and wait until the proctor gives you permission to turn in your examination materials if you complete the examination before the proctor announces that the examination is over.