



# RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

## CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: July 21, 2021

TIME: 8:42 AM

WSR 21-15-114

**Agency:** Department of Health- Dental Quality Assurance Commission

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules**

- 31 days after filing.
- Other (specify) 08/28/2021 (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

- Yes
  - No
- If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** WAC 246-817-580 Novel coronavirus disease 2019 screening. The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) adopted a new, permanent rule to allow a dentist to delegate novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) screening tests to dental staff under appropriate supervision and demonstration of competency.

In response to COVID-19, the commission determined screening for the disease is essential to dental practice safety. Dentistry produces large amounts of aerosols and it is important for dentists to appropriately screen patients prior to dental treatment. Delegating patient COVID-19 screening tests assists dentists by reducing their workload to effectively continue dental care to patients. Knowing a patient's COVID-19 screening test result helps dentists prepare appropriate oral health treatment planning for the patient and maintain a safe work environment.

As dental procedures are proceeding during this pandemic, there is an influx of patients needing dental care and a greater need of the dental workforce. Delegating COVID-19 screening tests under appropriate supervision to credentialed dental staff allows dentists to provide safe dental care to more patients.

The commission filed emergency rulemaking for COVID-19 screening tests on April 30, 2021 as WSR# 21-10-058. The commission intends for the emergency rule to remain in place until the permanent rule is effective.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

- New: WAC 246-817-580
- Repealed: None
- Amended: None
- Suspended: None

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 18.260.040, 18.260.070, 18.29.050, and 18.32.0365

**Other authority:** RCW 18.32.002

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 21-09-040 on 04/13/2021 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

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**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

Federal statute:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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**The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:**

New	<u>1</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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**The number of sections adopted using:**


Negotiated rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Pilot rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

**Date Adopted:** 06/25/2021

**Name:** David Carsten, DDS

**Title:** Dental Quality Assurance Commission Chairperson

**Signature:**



NEW SECTION

**WAC 246-817-580 Novel coronavirus disease 2019 screening.** (1) A supervising dentist may delegate the administration of a test for screening of novel coronavirus disease 2019 to a registered dental assistant and licensed expanded function dental auxiliary under the dentist's close supervision, provided the registered dental assistant and licensed expanded function dental auxiliary have demonstrated skills necessary to perform the task competently.

(2) A supervising dentist may delegate the administration of a test for screening of novel coronavirus disease 2019 to a licensed dental hygienist under the dentist's general supervision, provided the licensed dental hygienist has demonstrated skills necessary to perform the task competently.