

**JULY 2020 EXAM**  
**COVID-19 FAQs**  
*(Updated 6/5/2020)*

**Q: Will the July 2020 exam be held as scheduled on July 28 and 29 in Missouri?**

A: At this time, the Missouri Board of Law Examiners (MBLE) plans to administer the July 2020 exam, as scheduled. In the event the exam cannot be held in July, the exam will be administered September 9-10, per the [Supreme Court of Missouri Order](#) issued April 28, 2020.

**Q: Will the current filing deadline of June 1, 2020, be extended if the exam is postponed to September 9-10?**

A: No, all applications for the July exam must be properly filed by June 1, 2020, regardless of whether the exam is postponed to September 9-10. The current filing deadline should provide sufficient opportunity to apply as it is one of the latest among UBE states.

**Q: Will there be limits on the number of applications allowed to be filed for the July 2020 exam?**

A: Yes, effective April 30, the maximum number of applications MBLE will accept is 760. MBLE normally tests between 680 – 750 examinees in July. The cap number is consistent with the maximum seating capacity of available venues and MBLE testing resources and assumes the exam will be held without significant restrictions on gathering sizes either during July or September. The final deadline to apply for the July 2020 examination was June 1. Pursuant to the Supreme Court of Missouri Order of April 28, 2020, MBLE accepted applications on or after April 30 based on the priority criteria designated in the order.

**Q: How will MBLE determine which applications are accepted for filing up to the maximum number?**

A: Effective April 30, properly filed applications were accepted in the order received, up to 760, with priority afforded equally to Missouri residents, graduates of ABA-approved law schools located in Missouri or a contiguous state, licensed attorneys for an employer located in Missouri, and recipients of an offer of employment as a licensed attorney for an employer located in Missouri. No application to retake the exam was accepted for filing on or after April 30 if the applicant sat for four or more prior administrations of the Missouri bar exam.

**Q: What is a “properly filed” application?**

A: Pursuant to Rule 8, applications are properly filed when MBLE receives the completed electronic application forms (both exam and character and fitness application forms), appropriate fee, and signed/notarized authorization and release.

**Q: What information will be required to demonstrate I meet the priority criteria for MBLE to accept my application for filing?**

A: Applicants must submit the electronic application, which includes information regarding residence and law school. Applicants employed currently as an attorney, or holding an offer of employment as an attorney, for an employer located in Missouri will be required to submit a signed verification from their employer.

**Q: How will I be notified my application has been accepted for priority filing?**

A: Applicants will receive a letter verifying their application has been properly filed and processing has begun. Applicants who do not appear to meet the priority criteria will be notified by e-mail, and, if their application is not accepted, the fee refunded. Applicants are encouraged to review the priority criteria before submitting an application.

**Q: How will applicants be notified if the July 2020 exam registration period is closed because the cap has been reached prior to the June 1 final deadline?**

A: The July 2020 exam registration period was closed per the normal deadline of June 1. MBLE received 774 applications as of the June 1 filing deadline. Non-priority applicants filing on or after April 30 were provided the option to receive a refund of the application fee or to carry forward the fee to February 2021.

**Q: Could the cap on applications be decreased, and if so, when would MBLE provide notice of the lower cap number?**

A: The application cap was not decreased during the exam registration period.

**Q: What measures have been taken to accommodate social distancing restrictions anticipated to be in place during the exam?**

A: MBLE secured an additional testing venue to accommodate seating at the current 6-foot social distancing restrictions and posted information on the website regarding the testing venues for the July 2020 exam. Applicants will be seated one per table with six-foot distance from each other, and normal seating capacity per room has been reduced. It will be incumbent upon examinees to adhere to social distancing measures implemented during screening, registration, and exam administration.

**Q: How will I know which venue I will be testing at for the July 2020 exam?**

A: MBLE will notify individual examinees on July 7 where they will be testing.

**Q: What measures have been taken to accommodate restrictions on mass gatherings?**

A: It is unknown at this time what restrictions will be in place in July or September regarding limitations on the number of people gathering. MBLE has secured an additional testing venue in order to accommodate some level of mass gathering restrictions and will implement staggered start times to ensure compliance with official health directives.

**Q: Is MBLE further limiting the number of applicants allowed to test during the July 2020 exam?**

A: Based on current official health directives, MBLE is not imposing further limits on the number of examinees allowed to sit for the exam. MBLE plans to provide a seat for all eligible applicants who submitted a properly filed application by the June 1 deadline.

**Q: If MBLE limits the number of applicants allowed to ultimately sit for the exam because of mass gathering or other health directives restricting seating capacity, how will those decisions be implemented?**

A: If circumstances change and exam seating must be further reduced, MBLE will prioritize seating according to the Court's Order of April 28. Thus, applicants will be approved for testing, up to the maximum number, according to the order a properly filed application was received, with priority afforded equally to Missouri residents, graduates of ABA-approved law schools located in Missouri or a contiguous state, licensed attorneys for an employer located in Missouri, and recipients of an offer of employment as a licensed attorney for an employer located in Missouri. Applicants who have sat for four or more prior administrations of the Missouri bar exam will not be allowed to test if MBLE imposes limits on the number of examinees. Applicants not allowed to test because of limits imposed on the number of examinees will be allowed to carry forward the application fee to the next scheduled examination in February 2021, without assessment of additional postponement fees.

**Q: If MBLE limits the number of applicants allowed to ultimately sit for the exam because of mass gathering or other health directives restricting seating capacity, do I need to have completed the character and fitness investigative process to be considered for priority seating?**

A: No, applicants will be prioritized according to the order a properly filed application was received and the categories listed in the Court's Order of April 28.

**Q: What measures are being taken to administer the exam consistent with official health guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

A: To protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons attending the July 2020 bar examination, MBLE will implement measures consistent with CDC and other official health directives to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Those measures include requiring staff and

examinees where protective face masks, follow social distancing, and confirm they do not meet the criteria for exposure to COVID-19. Examinees will not be allowed into the testing area if they meet any one of the following criteria:

- a. traveled to any foreign country within the 20 days prior to the exam;
- b. reside or have close contact with someone who traveled to any foreign country within the 20 days prior to the exam;
- c. have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the 30 days prior to the exam;
- d. have a fever or are sick;
- e. have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the 20 days prior to the exam; or
- f. reside in a jurisdiction outside of Missouri that is subject to an official travel advisory in effect within 30 days of the scheduled date of the bar examination. Official travel advisories include, but are not limited to, those issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization, or state and local governments.

**Q: What measures are being taken to ensure compliance with official health directives?**

A: The ability to administer the July 2020 examination consistent with public health directives will only be possible with the cooperation of all applicants. To confirm each applicant's commitment to following the protective measures implemented, MBLE requires each applicant complete and submit the [code of conduct agreement](#) form **by July 15, 2020**. If an applicant does not submit a completed code of conduct agreement form by the deadline, the bar examination fee will be carried forward to February 2021, and the applicant will not be allowed to sit for the July 2020 examination.

**Q: What measures are being taken to ensure all persons attending the July 2020 bar examination do not meet the criteria for exposure to COVID-19.**

A. Staff/proctors will be screened to confirm they do not meet the criteria for exposure to COVID-19. **On the day of the examination**, applicants will be required to submit a completed attestation affirming they do not meet the criteria for exposure to COVID-19 (listed above a-f). The attestation forms will be posted to each applicant's secure portal on July 20 and must be filled out and brought to screening on the first day of the exam. Examinees will not be allowed into the testing area if they do not submit a completed attestation or if they meet the criteria.

**Q: What if I am denied entry on the day of testing because I meet the criteria for exposure to COVID-19 or I do not submit the required code of conduct agreement and attestation?**

A: Applicants denied admission to the exam will be allowed to carry forward the application fee to the next scheduled examination in February 2021, without assessment of additional postponement fees.

**Q: What measures will applicants be allowed to take to further mitigate their risk of exposure to COVID-19 during the exam administration?**

A: Applicants will be required to wear a protective face mask that covers the nose and mouth during the entire administration of the exam, including screening, registration, testing, and breaks. Applicants who do not have a face mask will be provided one to be used for the entire exam period. Applicants will be allowed to bring their own clear plastic water bottle, as communal water dispensers will not be available in the testing room. Applicants will also be allowed to bring a small, clear bottle of hand sanitizer for their personal use.

**Q: What if I apply for the July 2020 exam and then decide to postpone to February 2021?**

A: Applicants are encouraged to postpone taking the exam until February 2021 when there will likely be more certainty regarding COVID-19. Normal postponement fees will not be assessed for any applicant who provides notice of postponement on or before June 15, 2020.

**Q: What factors will be considered to determine whether the exam will be postponed to September 9-10, and when will the decision be made?**

A: MBLÉ is taking reasonable measures to accommodate anticipated health directives to safely administer the exam in July, as scheduled, to the expected number of applicants. If national, state, or local orders restrict gatherings to no more than 10 people, MBLÉ will not administer the exam in July and will postpone to September 9-10. MBLÉ anticipates making a decision on or about June 15 whether to postpone the exam to September.

**Q: Will I be required to submit another application if the exam is postponed to September 9-10?**

A: No. If the exam is postponed to September 9-10, applicants will be required to select the September or February 2021 testing date and notify MBLÉ within 15 days after notice is posted rescheduling the exam. Properly filed applicants who provide timely notice of selection will not be required to submit another application either for the September 9 – 10 or February 2021 administration. Applicants have a continuing duty to update or amend their application if changes occur with respect to any information submitted.

**Q: Will the same seating limits be applied if the exam is postponed to September 9-10?**

A: Depending upon national, state, or local orders in effect at the time, MBLÉ may impose limits on the number of applicants allowed to test during the September 9-10 exam, using the priority criteria in the Court's Order of April 28.

**Q: Will my Rule 13 certification continue in effect if the exam is postponed to September 9-10 or I decide to postpone until February 2021?**

A: Yes. Per the Court's Order, active Rule 13 certifications will continue in effect until the announcement of the results of the February 2021 bar exam and, for any student who passes that examination, the certification continues in effect until the date he or she is admitted to the bar. Certifications for students taking a bar exam held either in July 2020 or on the alternative 2020 date will remain in effect until the announcement of the results for that exam, and for any student who passes that examination, the certification shall continue in effect until the date he or she is admitted to the bar.