

Frequently asked Questions Related to the February 2022 Exam Administration
(Last updated 2/15/2022)

The Minnesota Board of Law Examiners understands the significant impact of COVID-19 on applicants to the Minnesota bar. The purpose of this document is to provide additional guidance and to address issues related to the February 2022 test administration. This document will be updated as the Board office receives additional requests for clarification.

1. Will Minnesota administer the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) in person on February 22 and 23, 2022?

Yes. The Board is planning to administer the February 2022 examination in person at RiverCentre in St. Paul, MN. Prospective applicants are encouraged to continue to check the Board's website and their portals for any updates.

2. Will there be an online option to take the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) in February 2022?

On June 1, 2021, the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) announced that it would return to paper based testing for the February 2022 examination, unless restrictions by a public health authority prohibit a jurisdiction from administering the February 2022 examination in person. Additional information can be found [here](#).

3. I am registered for the February 2022 examination. Can I transfer to the July 2022 examination?

Please see Rule [12](#) of the Rules for Admission to the Bar for additional information on withdrawals and mechanisms for carry-over. If you have any specific circumstances that you wish to discuss with the Board, you are encouraged to contact the Board office. If requesting a carry-over, please review the Rule and make sure that your request includes enough detail for a determination to be made.

4. Does Minnesota provide the option for temporary practice? Can I practice in Minnesota before taking the examination?

On Monday, April 20, 2020, the Minnesota Board of Law Examiner filed a [Petition](#) with the Court seeking rule amendments to the Student Practice Rules to permit recent graduates to practice under a supervising attorney. On Friday, June 5, 2020, the Court adopted the Board's proposed changes, effective July 1, 2020. Recent graduates meeting the rule requirements may practice under the supervision of a Minnesota licensed attorney for up to 18 months. Additional information can be found [here](#).

On September 29, 2020, the Minnesota Supreme Court adopted [Court Rule Amendments](#) authorizing the Legal Paraprofessionals Pilot Project (Rule 12 of the [Supervised Practice Rules](#)) effective March 1, 2021 through March 2023. Rule 12 is administered by the Legal Paraprofessionals Standing [Committee](#). Additional information related to the Legal Paraprofessionals Pilot Project may be found on the Court's website.

5. My employer is not familiar with the supervised practice rules and is not sure if she wants to participate. Can I have her contact the Board office to discuss?

Yes. We would be happy to discuss. Please encourage your employer to contact the Board office at ble@mbcle.state.mn.us or 651-297-1857.

6. What additional precautions will be taken for the safety of applicants?

The Board takes the safety of examinees, proctors, and employees seriously. The Board has reviewed the protocols and guidelines published by the Minnesota Department of Health in developing the safety protocols for the February test administration. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Board office with questions and concerns.

7. Will face coverings be required?

Yes. All applicants, proctors, and Board staff will be required to wear a face covering at all times while at the examination. UPDATED 1/20/22: Based on updated mask guidance, all applicants will be required to wear a surgical mask, a KN-94 mask, a KN-95 mask, or a N95 mask. The mask cannot have quick-release valves. Applicants may wear a cloth mask in addition to a compliant mask, but a cloth mask alone will not be permitted. If an applicant does not have a compliant mask, a 3-ply surgical-style mask will be provided to the applicant at the examination testing site. This requirement applies even if vaccinated. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html>

Applicants unable to wear a mask due to health reasons who have not yet requested a testing accommodation may ask to carry-over their examination to the July 2022 examination. Please review the information related to Non-Standard Test Accommodations at the Board's website for additional information on what is required to request a non-standard testing accommodation: <https://www.ble.mn.gov/forms/forms/>

8. Will seating be limited for the February 2022 examination? How many examinees will be in one room?

Applicants testing at St. Paul RiverCentre will be tested in one large ballroom. There will not be more than 200 examinees in the room. One examinee will be seated per table with the chair placed in the middle of the table. Board staff will work with the facility to space individuals further apart than a normal examination.

The Board continues to carefully monitor the public health information. Additional information will be communicated, if necessary.

9. What happens if the February 2022 administration of the UBE is cancelled?

In the unlikely event that the February 2022 administration of the UBE is cancelled, we would automatically transfer your application to the July 2022 exam. Applicants can opt out of this default position by notifying our office that you do not wish to take the next exam. If the examination is cancelled and you opt out of transferring your examination to the July 2022 exam, you may request a refund of your application fee. If you elect a refund, you will need to reapply if you wish to take the examination in the future.

10. If I have to travel to take the Minnesota bar exam, and I cannot make it to the exam because of travel restrictions, will my application be transferred to the next exam?

Rule 12J provides instructions for carrying over your application to the next examination. Restrictions on travel because of COVID-19 would be a basis to carry-over your examination. If you are traveling into Minnesota to take the examination you are highly encouraged to review the Minnesota Department of Health's guidance on travel. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#travel>

11. My doctor has advised that I should avoid groups of more than 10 people. What type of accommodations is the Board making to test in smaller groups?

For every bar exam, we plan for appropriate spaces to accommodate applicants requiring reasonable accommodations. Applications for accommodation were due with your application. If you have questions related to accommodations or carrying your application over to the July 2022 examination, please contact the Board office as soon as possible. <https://www.ble.mn.gov/bar-exam/test-accommodations/>

12. What will the screening/code of conduct form look like for February's examinations?

The COVID-19 Certification and Acknowledgement February 2022 Minnesota Bar Examination form was included with the Exam Instructions Letter posted to the Applicant Portals at the beginning of February. Examinees should carefully review this form and bring the form to the exam on Tuesday morning. Up to date guidance can be found on the CDC's [website](#).

13. Will applicants who have received a vaccination be permitted to test without social distancing or face coverings?

The Board will follow the same policies with respect to all applicants.

The Board will be requiring face coverings and will be seating examinees with increased distancing at the February 2022 examination.

14. Will vaccination be required to sit for the examination?

The Board will follow any Court, state, or local requirements related to vaccination. At this time, vaccination is not required to sit for the examination. Proctors and Board employees will be required to provide either proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID test prior to working at the event.

15. Will hand sanitizer be available?

Yes. Hand sanitizer and disposable wipes will be available at the examination site. In addition, examinees may bring their own personal sized hand sanitizer bottle (3 ounces or less; flip-top or pump) and sanitizing wipes (personal size). For additional information on what can be brought into the exam, please review to the [Allowed and Prohibited Items at the Bar Exam](#).

16. Can I bring in a refillable water bottle?

Yes. Examinees will be permitted to bring in a clear, refillable water bottle (max 48 oz.). Water bottles may be refilled at the drinking fountains.



17. Can I remove my mask to eat lunch?

Examinees will be required to wear their facial coverings while in the testing areas of the examination site and while in lines for registration and to enter the testing areas. Please be cognizant of distancing and other best practices if removing your mask in the communal areas of RiverCentre before the examination, during lunch, and after the examination. For additional information on best practices related to facial coverings, please review the information on the MDH website linked in paragraph 7 above.

RiverCentre has advised that [Headwaters Café](#) will be open during lunch.

18. Can I leave the test site over lunch if I feel more comfortable with this option?

Yes. You may leave the testing over the lunch hour. You will be advised as to what time you should return.

19. Are restrooms available in the secure testing area?

Yes. Restrooms are available in the secure testing area and the unsecured area.

20. Is there a gender-neutral restroom available in the secure testing area at RiverCentre?

Yes.

21. I have a question not addressed above. How can I obtain additional information?

If the question is specific to your situation or application, please post the question through your applicant portal and your processor will reply. If the question is a broader question and you have not yet applied, you are welcome to send that question to ble@mbcle.state.mn.us. Because information on this issue is constantly evolving, some questions may not be able to be addressed until closer to the examination. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.