



ABHES BULLETIN

To: ABHES-Accredited Institutions and Programs
From: India Y. Tips, Executive Director
Date: March 13, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 – ABHES Operations

ABHES continues to monitor and assess the circumstances and impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on our institutions and accreditation operations. Institutions are encouraged to remain in close contact and should be executing their emergency preparedness protocols and continuing education/operation plans. These plans should outline academic continuity processes and procedures. The Commission understands that institutions may need to make changes to how training is being offered, but each institution must demonstrate that quality and sound learning experiences are still being provided.

Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, ABHES staff will begin working remotely. The ABHES office will continue to operate during its normal business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time. Staff will be available to address any questions and provide support services via telephone or email, with email being preferred as it provides for the most expedient response.

As you might imagine, ABHES is receiving a high volume of communication, so we appreciate your patience and understanding to allow extended response time to ensure that all communications and correspondence submissions are carefully reviewed so that we may provide accurate and complete information.

On-Site Evaluations

All on-site evaluations scheduled between March 16, 2020 and April 3, 2020, are being rescheduled for future dates ideally to be held within the months of May through July. ABHES will continue to assess the number of visits impacted to determine how such delays will affect the accreditation timeline relative to the Commission's next review.

Institutions scheduled for an ABHES on-site evaluation visit after April 3, 2020, should remain in direct contact with their designated ABHES staff member for any potential updates, changes, or postponements.

Institutions who have undergone on-site evaluations are expected to submit responses to visitation reports as required. Any institution requiring additional time should send an email to Amy Rowe, Associate Executive Director of Membership Services, at arowe@abhes.org, with details regarding the need for an extension.

ABHES Events

The Taskforce and Standards Review Committee meetings scheduled for March 15, 2020, and March 16 through March 18, 2020, have been cancelled. Designated ABHES staff will be in touch with each participant to obtain their availability for a future date.

The Institutional/Programmatic Combo Accreditation Workshop scheduled for April 24, 2020, in Atlanta, Georgia, is still being held as scheduled. ABHES will be exploring virtual options in the event that the workshop cannot proceed as planned. For updates regarding the workshop, visit [ABHES April 2020 Workshop](#). Amy Rowe, Associate Executive Director of Membership Services, will be providing more details to registered workshop attendees including information relative to compliance with the workshop attendance requirement, attendance options, refunds, etc.

ABHES Submissions

Institution should continue to submit applications and forms as applicable. Commission directed responses must be submitted as instructed in action letters or report cover letters. The Commission-directed Self-Evaluation Reports (SER) are still due on May 1, 2020. If additional time is needed for responses or submission of your SER, please submit a written request via email to Amy Rowe at arowe@abhes.org.

For additional information or to view other ABHES Bulletins relative to COVID-19, visit https://www.abhes.org/news_item/coronavirus-update/. ABHES continues to monitor the available information on COVID-19, which changes daily, and will provide updates when there is more information to share.