



Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama

2229 Rocky Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35216

205.985.7267

www.dentalboard.org

Proposed BDEA Hepatitis B Policy and Protocol

Approved by Board 2-13-2026

Purpose

This policy establishes the Hepatitis B (HBV) requirements applicable to applicants for licensure and to the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program (ADHP) under the oversight of the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama (BDEA). The policy is intended to balance public and patient safety, individual autonomy, and regulatory consistency while remaining aligned with applicable state and federal law.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- Applicants for dental or dental hygiene licensure in the State of Alabama; and
 - Applicants to, and students enrolled in, the ADHP.
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State Licensure

For dental and dental hygiene licensure, the BDEA shall not require any documentation, testing, or inquiries regarding Hepatitis B vaccination or immune status.

ADHP Clinical Participation

Before any clinical participation of a student enrolled in the ADHP is allowed, **one** of the following conditions (1), (2), or (3) must be satisfied:

1. Documentation of a positive Hepatitis B (HBV) surface antibody titer;
2. Proof of completion of any CDC-accepted Hepatitis B vaccination series (e.g., 2-dose or 3-dose schedules) and the results of a Hepatitis B surface antibody titer; *
3. Documentation of chronic HBV infection. **



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* Titer results shall not affect an applicant's enrollment eligibility, nor will it result in any restriction imposed by the BDEA or ADHP. If a student lacks a positive titer prior to the commencement of clinical activities, the student will be required to have a second CDC-accepted Hepatitis B vaccination series, followed by another titer. If the student still lacks a positive titer, the student will be documented as a non-responder.

** The BDEA shall not impose clinical participation restrictions or graduation consequences based solely on HBV status, consistent with the 2012 CDC guidelines relied upon by the Department of Justice in enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Enrollment does not constitute a guarantee of access to any specific external clinical training site.

Confidentiality

Any documentation submitted pursuant to this policy shall be maintained as confidential educational and/or medical information and handled in accordance with applicable privacy, confidentiality, and record-retention requirements.

Effective Date

This policy shall become effective upon formal adoption by the BDEA and shall apply prospectively to applicants and students entering the 2026–2027 ADHP class and thereafter.