



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Olympia, Washington 98504

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

**Title of Policy Statement:** Virtual Supervision for Psychology Internships and Preinternships during and following the COVID-19 Declared Emergency | Policy Number: EBOP-20-02.2.

**Issuing Entity:** Examining Board of Psychology

**Subject Matter:** Clarifying the Examining Board of Psychology's (board) position on using virtual supervision to fulfill requirements for face-to-face individual supervision for internships and preinternships. The board has extended this policy statement until the conclusion of permanent rulemaking on this topic.

**Effective Date:** May 19, 2023

**Contact Person:** Zachary Patnode, Program Manager  
[psychology@doh.wa.gov](mailto:psychology@doh.wa.gov)  
(360) 490-2587

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*Department of Health*  
*Health Systems Quality Assurance*  
**Policy Statement**

<i>Title:</i>	Virtual Supervision for Psychology Internships and Preinternships during and following the COVID-19 Declared Emergency.	<i>Number:</i> EBOP-20-02.2
<i>References:</i>	<a href="#">RCW 18.83.050</a> . <a href="#">RCW 18.83.070</a> . <a href="#">Chapter 246-924 WAC</a> . <a href="#">WAC 246-924-053</a> . <a href="#">WAC 246-924-056</a> . <a href="#">Governor's Stay Home - Stay Healthy Proclamations, 20-25 through 20-25.7</a> .	
<i>Contact:</i>	Zachary Patnode, Program Manager	
<i>Phone:</i>	(360) 490-2587	
<i>Email:</i>	<a href="mailto:psychology@doh.wa.gov">psychology@doh.wa.gov</a>	
<i>Effective Date:</i>	May 19, 2023	
<i>Supersedes:</i>	EBOP-20-02.1, effective September 30, 2022	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Sasha de Leon, Assistant Secretary	

It is the Examining Board of Psychology's (board) position that, pending permanent rule amendments to chapter 246-924 WAC regarding virtual supervision, virtual supervision may fulfill the requirement for "face-to-face individual supervision" during psychology internships and preinternships.

Under chapter 246-924 WAC, both psychology internships and preinternships require "face-to-face individual supervision." WAC [246-924-053](#) requires at least 2 hours of face-to-face supervision for every 20 hours of preinternship experience, while WAC [246-924-056](#) requires at least 2 hours of face-to-face supervision for every 40 hours of internship experience. Additionally, "face-to-face" is defined in WAC [246-924-010](#) as "in-person contact in the same physical space not assisted by technology."

During the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) declared emergency, the Governor issued Proclamation [20-25 Stay Home - Stay Healthy](#) and subsequent [proclamations](#) requiring social distancing to mitigate the public health threat posed by COVID-19. In response the board issued Policy Statement EBOP-21-02. Within the board's authority under RCW [18.83.070](#)(3) to define circumstances under which supervised experience qualifies a candidate for licensure and within the board's authority under RCW [18.83.050](#)(2) to determine which applicants are eligible for licensing, the board recognized virtual supervision as a means to fulfill the requirement for "face-to-face individual supervision" during psychology internships and preinternships during the COVID-19 declared emergency. This policy was later extended past the end of the COVID-19 declared emergency to allow students and academic programs to complete the 2022-2023 academic year under consistent supervision requirements.

Given the board's interest in protecting the health of vulnerable individuals, the board's interest in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the profession, and the comments received from members of the profession and the public about the value of virtual supervision in clinical training sites, the board will continue to consider internship or preinternship individual supervision to meet the "face-to-face" requirement if:

1. The internship or preinternship individual supervised experience hours took place during one of the following time periods:
  - a. During the Washington State COVID-19 declared emergency, beginning February 29, 2020 through October 31, 2022, or
  - b. After the Washington State COVID-19 declared emergency through the conclusion of permanent rulemaking on this topic.
2. Virtual supervision was conducted over technology; and
3. Virtual supervision satisfied all other requirements as defined in WAC [246-924-053](#) or WAC [246-924-056](#).

The board's position on virtual supervision as identified in this policy statement will remain in effect for all applicants who completed internship or preinternship hours within the time periods prescribed above, regardless of when they apply for licensure.