



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 the COVID-19 Declared Emergency | Policy Number EBOP-20-02

Issuing Entity: Examining Board of Psychology

Subject Matter: “Face-to-Face individual supervision” during psychology internships and preinternships may be fulfilled by virtual supervision during the COVID-19 declared emergency and ending 180 days after the emergency declaration is lifted.

Effective Date: February 29, 2020

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Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

<i>Title:</i>	Virtual Supervision for Psychology Internships and Preinternships during the COVID-19 Declared Emergency.	<i>Number:</i> EBOP-20-02
<i>References:</i>	RCW 18.83.050 . RCW 18.83.070 . Chapter 246-924 WAC . WAC 246-924-053 . WAC 246-924-056 . Governor's Stay Home - Stay Healthy Proclamations, 20-25 through 20-25.7 .	
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<i>Approved By:</i>	Kristin Peterson, Assistant Secretary	

It is the Examining Board of Psychology's (board) position that the requirement for "face-to-face individual supervision" during psychology internships and preinternships may be fulfilled by virtual supervision during the COVID-19 declared emergency, beginning February 29th, 2020 and ending 180 days after the emergency declaration is lifted.

In response to the Governor's Proclamation [20-25 Stay Home - Stay Healthy](#) and subsequent [proclamations](#) requiring social distancing to mitigate the public health threat posed by COVID-19; 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 is enforcing supervision requirements in a manner consistent with social distancing standards established by the Governor.

Currently, 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."

Given the social distancing guidelines authorized by the Governor's Stay Home - Stay Healthy proclamations, the board considers 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 the COVID-19 declared emergency, beginning February 29th, 2020 and ending 180 days after the emergency declaration is lifted;
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](#).

This policy will remain in effect for all applicants who complete internship or preinternship hours during the COVID-19 declared emergency, beginning February 29th, 2020 and ending 180 days after the emergency declaration is lifted, regardless of when they apply for licensure.