



## Certification Examination in Family Medicine

### Spring 2021 examination administration report

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) conducts the Certification Examination in Family Medicine twice a year, in the spring and fall, at multiple centres across Canada in English and French.

The spring 2021 examination took place from Tuesday, April 20th, through Sunday, April 25th. This year only the written component of the exam—the computer-based short-answer management problems (SAMPs)—was required, which is four hours in length with an optional 15-minute break.



**1,763**

The exam was administered to 1,763 candidates, the second-largest group ever to take the exam in one testing window. A total of 1,762 candidates completed the exam, while one candidate decided to postpone it until the next administration due to technical difficulties.



**1.5 %**

Only 1.5 per cent of the total candidates experienced significant technical difficulties, and alternative options were made available to them. With effective communications in place, the CFPC was able to solve problems in a professional, compassionate, and consistent manner.



### How the examination went on the ground

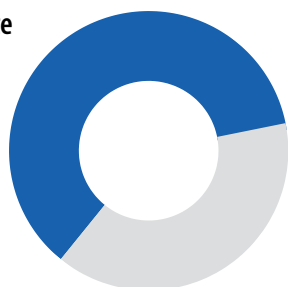


The CFPC works with Prometric to deliver our written exam. Prometric offers in-person testing at centres across the country and live, remote testing through its ProProctor assessment platform. Provided all requirements are met, remote proctoring allows candidates to take CFPC exams at locations of their choice (e.g., at home) instead of at a Prometric test centre.



The CFPC's online FAQs about remotely proctored exams provided candidates with helpful information about how taking the exam at a test centre differs from remote proctoring, how to choose the test option that's best for them, and what to do if technical difficulties occur.

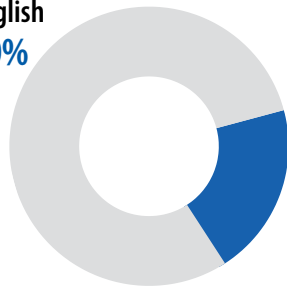
Test-site exam  
**61%**



Remotely proctored exams  
**39%**

**Mode of delivery:** Public health restrictions on indoor gatherings limited how many people could be accommodated at test centres, so some candidates had to accept the remotely proctored exam option.

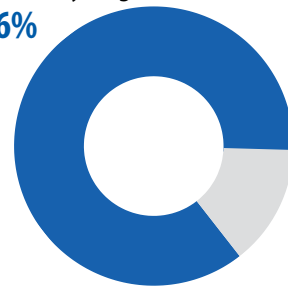
English  
**80%**



French  
**20%**

**Language of choice:** Nearly three-quarters of candidates took the exam in English. The CFPC prepares the French content using a five-step process to ensure the translated exam text is of the highest quality.

Residency-eligible  
**86%**



Practice-eligible  
**14%**

**Eligibility route:** While most exam candidates came from the residency-eligible route, approximately one in seven came from the practice-eligible route.

### How the COVID-19 pandemic affected the examination



The CFPC communicated regularly with registered candidates to keep them informed of COVID-19 restrictions and related resources. Some test sites were forced to close or reduce their capacity due to pandemic safety restrictions in some regions. Prometric notified candidates and posted information as decisions about test sites were made in accordance with local health regulations. The CFPC created a well-thought-out contingency plan for any individuals who were unable to write the exam at their scheduled times due to site closures or capacity restrictions.



Prometric operated 16 test centres across the country for the Certification Examination in Family Medicine. These sites followed local health regulations.



The CFPC routinely prepares multiple, parallel versions of the SAMPs portion of the exam, which makes rescheduling the sitting possible for candidates who experience technical difficulties.



To respond to sudden changes related to test-site closures, the CFPC extended the 2021 spring exam period by two days to allow affected candidates to register for a remotely proctored exam. Seventeen candidates were able to re-sit the exam in the extended testing window.



As in 2020, the CFPC has cancelled the simulated office oral (S00) portion of the exam for 2021 for first-time candidates and is basing certification on the SAMP portion only. The CFPC is diligently developing a way to deliver the S00 virtually in 2021 only for candidates who previously failed the S00 component and will expand this mode of delivery to all candidates in 2022.

### How the CFPC accommodates exam candidates' needs

The CFPC is committed to providing all examination candidates equitable opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in the examination setting.



The CFPC makes every effort to accommodate candidates' needs related to pregnancy, breastfeeding, religion, wellness considerations, physical or functional limitations, learning disabilities, or other medical diagnoses requiring special consideration.



All exams are monitored securely to ensure the results are valid.



The CFPC allows exam candidates to choose their own exam settings. They often select test centres that are close to their homes or to their residency training locations.



Five CFPC staff members are dedicated to supporting the administration of the exam and respond quickly to any issues that may arise.

The CFPC is dedicated to working directly with committees, schools, and resident groups to address unique challenges related to exams. We welcome your ongoing engagement and invite you to share your concerns by emailing [ccfpexam@cfpc.ca](mailto:ccfpexam@cfpc.ca).

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