



## Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc.

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **SRTA OFFERS DENTAL HYGIENE NON-PATIENT LICENSURE EXAMINATION AS ALTERNATIVE**

*The Southern Regional Testing Agency advances its manikin-based licensure exam amid testing complications due to COVID-19*

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA (May 14, 2020) – The Southern Regional Testing Agency, Inc. (SRTA) has announced a complete manikin-based licensing examination for dental hygiene students in response to the testing delays and complications faced by COVID-19. The virus has brought numerous challenges to the dental profession, including the closure of dental practices and clinics across the nation due to safety concerns. These factors make finding live patients for skills assessments for state licensure for graduates nearly impossible.

“We have foreseen some of these issues and know that the technology is there, so we have been developing a complete, manikin-based dental hygiene licensing exam for a year,” said SRTA President-Elect Gerry Walker, D.M.D. “In response to the coronavirus pandemic, SRTA has approved the release of its complete manikin-based Dental Hygiene module, using cutting-edge dental products that are highly effective in simulating a live patient’s dental anatomy.

“It is imperative that our dental hygienists’ competencies and skills are adequately and properly assessed through clinical, hands-on testing,” said Walker. “Therefore, a safe, non-patient-based licensing exam must be available to these hygiene students.”

The non-patient based SRTA dental hygiene exam is a thorough assessment that includes proper tissue management, detecting various types of dental calculus, and completing a partial oral prophylaxis and partial periodontal pocket depth assessment. There is also an optional Intra-/Extra-Oral computerized examination that assesses oral manifestations and diseases, and healthy tissue management.

“While it remains at the discretion of each state’s licensing boards on whether to accept this alternative assessment module,” said SRTA Executive Director Jessica Bui. “SRTA continues its commitment to being responsive and actionable during these challenging times for our industry.”

#### **About the Southern Regional Testing Agency (SRTA)**

SRTA has been a trusted testing agency in the U.S. since 1975. Its innovative approach to examinations, along with the wide network of examiners from across the country, afford it the opportunity to be the most responsive testing agency to meet the present challenges facing the dental industry.

If interested in learning more about SRTA’s manikin-based exam opportunity, please contact Jessica Bui ([jbui@srta.org](mailto:jbui@srta.org)) or (757-318-9082).

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