



All

Re: COVID 19

The situation with regard to COVID-19 continues to change very quickly. Important new developments have occurred today and include the following:

EXAM POSTPONEMENT

- The Royal College has announced its intention to postpone all exams, including written exams for March and April. The RCPS worked with the Medical Council of Canada and College of Family Physicians of Canada in arriving at this decision. Both MCC and CFPC have made similar decisions to postpone examinations.

It is understood that this postponement will be very disappointing and stressful for candidates. The decisions were made only after careful deliberation and to ensure the health and safety of resident physicians.

The RCPS has indicated that it is in communication with the provincial licensing colleges to address licencing issues for those who have completed training but have not yet challenged the certification exams.

CFPC has indicated that new examination dates will be announced as soon as possible. Exam fees for the spring 2020 sitting will be applied to the next examination offering. I attached the Exam Postponement FAQ provided to me by CFPC.

MCC will be postponing MCCQE (Part I) scheduled from April 15 – May 15 2020 and also MCCQE Part II, scheduled for May 2 and 3 2020. Candidates for MCCQE Part I are asked **NOT** to change scheduled exam appointments in Prometric. MCC is working closely with the Medical Regulatory Authorities and Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities (FMRAC) to look at providing provisional registration or extending educational licences for those impacted by delay in MCCQE Part II. MCC is advising candidates to contact the provincial MRA for further direction.

I participated in a TC with PG Deans and Royal College today. They are working hard to develop strategies to deliver the exam as soon as feasible from a health and safety perspective ---timing of course remains uncertain at this point. I expect to be receiving fairly regular updates from RCPS which I will pass on to you. The PG Deans will be organizing a similar phone conversation with CFPC early next week.

OUT OF PROVINCE (WITHIN CANADA) ELECTIVES

- At a local level, a decision was made today to cancel all incoming and outgoing electives within Canada. This is a strategy which is already in effect at a number of centers and was agreed to by many of the Postgraduate Deans today.

I recognize the importance and value of these elective experiences but in the current context they will need to be suspended. Several residents have already approached me for letters confirming that electives are being cancelled at the direction of PGME in order to get refunds for travel and accommodation. Crystal is preparing a standard letter that can be provided to any resident at your request.
(crystal.boisselle@ucalgary.ca)

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- The focus at the moment is on social distancing and reducing transmission of the COVID 19 virus. For this reason I am going to have to ask all programs to suspend all academic activities until the end of April when we will reassess. This includes academic half day activities, rounds, STACER exams, or similar.

I appreciate that this will impact the educational experience of learners. Having said that, we find ourselves in a uncharted waters having to deal with a pandemic. The priority in all cases is to take measures to reduce the spread of this infection and keep residents and faculty safe.

YOUR HEALTH

Your health and safety are paramount. A few reminders:

- Personal Protective Equipment. There is an excellent video on the AHS incite to demonstrate how to don and doff equipment. Please take a few moments to review to ensure that you are properly prepared
- If you develop symptoms of fever, dyspnea, or cough please contact AHS Workplace Health and Safety (1-855-450-3619)
- Any resident who is returning from travel outside the country must self-isolate for 14 days prior to returning to training

The current situation is stressful and also unprecedented. Please do not hesitate to access resources for support, including PFSP and Office of Resident Affairs & Physician Wellness as mentioned in my last memo. I will make every effort to circulate information and respond to enquiries in a timely fashion.

Many thanks for the support and collaborative response to a very difficult situation.

Lisa Welikovitch MD FRCP
Associate Dean, PGME