



**CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Office of the Associate Dean  
Postgraduate Medical Education  
G02 Heritage Medical Research Building  
Foothills Campus, University of Calgary  
3330 Hospital Drive NW  
Calgary, Alberta Canada T2N 4N1

March 16 2020

**Re: COVID 19**

Apologies in advance for this lengthy memo. There are a fair number of educational issues I need to address in the context of the evolving situation with respect to COVID 19.

**COMMUNICATION**

PGME has created an additional resource to address questions and provide support to residents or groups of residents during the pandemic. Please send request by email between 08:00 hrs – 18:00hrs during weekdays only. Enter **PGME COVID in subject line and send as High Priority**. Response will be staffed by PGME Assistant Deans and Directors on a rotating basis as follows:

WEEK OF	PGME STAFF	CONTACT INFORMATION
March 16	Dr Kelly Millar	kelly.millar@ahs.ca
March 23	Dr Steve Mintsioulis	smintsio@ucalgary.ca
March 30	Dr Aleks Mineyko	amineyko@ucalgary.ca

I can always be reached by email and will be in constant communication with PGME Leadership team.

**IN PROVINCE ELECTIVES:**

As mentioned by email yesterday, I communicated with the PG Dean at University of Alberta with regard to planned electives. The number of cases of COVID 19 continues to increase and we are both concerned about the implications of learners being away from the home university during this time. We agreed to suspend in-province electives for the next several months ( until end of May at a minimum), recognizing that elective residents and programs will be disappointed by this decision. A similar strategy has been employed in a number of other provinces across the country.

**OUT OF PROVINCE ELECTIVES**

I am in constant communication with PG Deans across the country. A decision is pending and will be communicated shortly.

**OUT OF COUNTRY ELECTIVES –TRAINEES NEED TO RETURN TO CANADA IMMEDIATELY**

As you know, our Prime Minister announced today that Canada is restricting entry to all non-residents. PGME will be communicating with any trainee who is scheduled to come to Calgary within the next 4 months to make

them aware of this decision. In keeping with the government directive **I am going to ask Program Directors to communicate with any trainee who is currently abroad and ask them to return to Canada immediately.** The Federal Government is organizing a program to provide assistance to Canadians abroad to facilitate return. As of March 18 only 4 airports will be receiving flights from international destinations –YYC will be one of these four. Returning individuals will still need to self-isolate for 14 days regardless of symptoms.

### **EXAM POSTPONMENT**

As you are all aware, RCPS and CFPC exams have been postponed. Study leaves should be deferred for now until a new date for the exams is determined.

### **STACERS:**

STACER examinations may go ahead under the following circumstances:

- Where local faculty serve as the examiner. It is best to avoid having a faculty member from another institution travel to Alberta for this purpose
- Where the process is limited to one-on-one interaction between resident and faculty member, rather than groups of residents

### **INTERNAL REVIEWS**

Whenever possible Internal Reviews will be conducted by videoconferencing. If this is not feasible and/or will significantly impact reviewers ability to obtain all required information then the Review will be postponed until it is possible to conduct in-person meetings. Further and more detailed information will be circulated by Dr. Goldstein and Ms. Erika Schulz.

### **75% ROTATION COMPLETION REQUIREMENT**

Residents impacted by COVID -19 may not be able to fulfill the existing requirement for completion of 75% of any single rotation. PGME provides the following principles to guide decision-making for residents and Program Directors:

- a) vacation requests will be respected recognizing that residents are strongly advised not to travel outside Canada in the near future. Any resident who chooses to travel outside Canada will need to self-isolate upon returning to Alberta. In this instance the 75% rule will be respected
- b) exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis for residents who are currently required to self-isolate as a consequence of having just returned from outside Canada, or as a consequence of an exposure. For those in CBME programs the Competence Committee may determine whether competence has been achieved and recommend to the RPC that the requirement for 75% attendance be waived. The trainee must, however, have completed no less than 50% of the rotation and the program will be required to request a waiver from PGME.. For residents in time-based programs a similar process can take place but decision making will be at the level of RPC if there is no Competence Committee in place. Decisions in this regard will not be subject to appeal

**RESIDENT AFFAIRS AND PHYSICIAN WELLNESS**

Some staff will begin to work from home over next several days. Please be advised that phone lines for the Resident Affairs office have been forwarded to the cell phone of Roxanne Laktin, Administrative Assistant. She will ensure that any call is brought to the attention of either Dr. Mannerfeldt or Ms. Nora MacQuarrie and will be dealt with in timely manner.

**REDEPLOYMENT OF TRAINEES**

Some services have taken the step of removing groups of learners from the clinical setting ( i.e. off-service residents in Emergency Department). If similar decisions are being contemplated please bring to my attention in advance. Under these circumstances residents should be directed back to their home Program Directors for re-assignment.

I will likely provide another update later this evening following on-going discussions and telephone meetings.

Many thanks for your patience as the situation continues to evolve

Lisa Welikovitch MD, FRCP  
Associate Dean, PGME



