

PGME COVID-19 Update

**March 14, 2020
1:40pm**

Thank you for your patience. We know the evolving COVID-19 pandemic is a cause for concern for postgraduate medical education learners, faculty, and staff.

Due to the rapidly evolving situation, the PGME office is unable to provide COVID-19 updates or recommendations communicated from other agencies. Please refer to [University of Alberta](#), [Government of Alberta](#) and [Alberta Health Services](#) websites for this information.

We will strive to interpret the information for the postgraduate learning environment and provide additional information and instructions as soon as possible.

Electives Clarification

- Electives for residents and fellows of the University of Alberta planned to take place anywhere outside the province of Alberta until the end of Block 13 (June 30, 2020), have been cancelled.
- Electives for residents and fellows of the University of Alberta planned to take place within the province of Alberta are **not cancelled at present**.
- Electives for residents and fellows of the University of Alberta planned for the next academic year commencing July 1, 2020 have not been cancelled at this time.

Rotations and Teaching

- There is no planned disruption in rotations at local or provincial sites. Residents should remain on their rotations as planned as service availability is already affected by those on quarantine. Preceptor/faculty should only advise residents to stay home if they have a fever or cough or meet other COVID-19 risk factors as described by AHS.
- Aerosolizing procedures should be reserved for the most competent resident (this may not always be the most senior resident, and could include off-service residents).
- Residents will not be penalized for choosing not to do a high-risk procedure.
- With respect to educational activities where groups of learners gather, we are following the direction of the University of Alberta. All programs must use alternative delivery options such as remote/online learning, Academic Half Days (AHDs) and other in-person classroom based PGME activities are cancelled.
- Residents are expected to continue on their rotations and be available for clinical service when AHDs and other educational activities are cancelled.

Assessments:

- Formative assessments such as EPAs will continue
- There may be modification regarding the timing/format of local summative exams (OSCEs)
- As of today, the AIMG externship is scheduled to proceed on time. Please refer to: [Alberta International Medical Graduate Program](#)

National Exams:

- The [College of Family Physicians of Canada](#) and the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons](#) and the [Medical Council of Canada](#) have postponed all national exams.

- The possibility of rescheduling examinations prior to the end of the academic year is being considered. There is no plan to update this information prior to April 1, 2020.
- Registrants for these exams are being contacted individually. Please keep watch for their communications to you.

Leaves:

- As a consequence of the postponement of all Canadian certification examinations, all study leaves and examination leaves of absence are cancelled.
- Residents are expected to remain in their assigned rotations during that time. The PGME office does not require Leave of Absence forms submitted to reflect these changes.

Reimbursement of Expenses

- We are unable to comment on the reimbursement of expenses incurred as a result of these changes at this time.

Please use our recently created [PGME COVID-19 form](#) to submit questions and comments related to COVID-19 and the impact it is having on our Postgraduate Medical Education community of learners and staff. We will compile these questions and strive to provide timely responses through ongoing email and website updates.

Best regards



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