

PGME COVID-19 Update

March 19, 2020 1:00pm

The landscape of postgraduate medical education has drastically changed over the past week. More changes are still ahead. Decisions are being made rapidly to ensure the sustainability of our healthcare system amid the COVID - 19 Pandemic.

We are asking all residents and fellows to work with their program directors on any plans to alter current assignments to provide front line care. The healthcare system depends on the critical role residents and fellows have in ensuring high quality patient care but this must be done in an organized way. We recognize shifting focus away from academic curriculum and priorities will impact our learners and their anticipated training trajectories. This is a difficult time for everyone and we must stand in solidarity with our senior colleagues and rise to this unprecedented challenge.

Postgraduate Medical Education Office

- The Office of Postgraduate Medical Education has transitioned to a virtual office. All staff may be reached by email or google hangouts.

Resident Redeployment

- The University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services, Covenant Health, and PARA have created a set of principles to oversee the redeployment of residents and fellows to areas of service need.

Practice Licenses - Medicine and Pediatrics

- Those residents and fellows eligible for unrestricted practice permits from the CPSA may be required to assist the physician workforce in the role of most responsible physician (MRP) We are working with the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics, Alberta Health Services, and the CPSA to investigate this strategy.

Educational experiences

- We recognize with reduction in elective surgeries and procedures and clinics being managed with telehealth, some educational experiences of residents are compromised. It is important for residents and programs to monitor their education over this time. PG Deans are in communication for national consultation on many issues. Decisions are influenced by provincial and university requirements and the local impact of COVID-19.

Examinations

- Examination plans are still a work in progress. We understand you have received conflicting information messages and we are working with the Royal College to resolve this. The postgrad deans are in communications with both certifying colleges providing information on local contexts

Please visit our [PGME COVID-19](#) google site for regular updates.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramona Kearney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Ramona Kearney
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education