

PGME COVID-19 Update 5

March 23, 2020 2:30pm

We are exceptionally proud of our PGME community and the work being done to support the healthcare system. We thank you for your patience and support as we navigate the challenges COVID-19 has presented.

Communication

- Please visit our [google site](#) for past and current COVID-19 PGME updates
- Over the past ten days, the Office of Postgraduate Medical Education has been sending COVID-19 updates directly to residency program directors and administrators, fellowship educational supervisors, PGME residents and fellows, and internal and external stakeholders
- We've had feedback from some trainees that they are not receiving our updates. We have not been able to investigate why this is occurring and are asking programs to please forward the information to their trainees.

Resident Redeployment Process

- The document "Principles for redeployment of resident physicians and fellows" was circulated last week to you. Working with AHS Acute Care Coverage, we have developed an algorithm of the process as to how requests are managed for residents and fellows to be redeployed from their current rotations to areas of need within our acute care locations. Program directors will need to approve all redeployments. Please see the attachment with the algorithm. Lists of skill sets of different groups of residents that your offices provided for us have now been shared with AHS. They may approach you for redeployment starting today.

Examinations

- The certifying colleges confirmed on Friday, March 20 the plans for examination postponement. The RCPSC and CFPC are postponing spring exams until the fall. Written exams will likely be in September and orals/practical/OSCEs in October. Each registrant is receiving information directly from the respective College. MCC has postponed the spring exams; dates for Part 1 are not yet available; dates for part 2 are likely in October.

License to practice for residents completing training

- The CPSA has been in discussion with the Associate Deans of both Alberta schools to determine their approach to the residents completing training this spring with respect to registration. It is expected that they will have a decision soon. We will communicate this as soon as we have confirmation from the CPSA.

Leave of Absence

- We have clarified the need from AHS for documentation related to leaves of absence. All residents on isolation, must have **ISOLATION** written on their leave of absence form.
- An LOA form is usually only required by PGME for a medical leave that's a week or longer. Due to all COVID-19 related medical leaves being tracked by Alberta Health Services, please be sure to send in a completed LOA request form for ANY length of medical leave required, even if it is less than a week, so long as it is related to isolation.
- All LOA forms should still have a start and end date. We are aware the end date may change depending on the result of testing, however that can be amended later on.
- Residents must follow the guidelines sent out by Alberta Health and the Government of Canada. If they have travelled outside of Canada it's a 14 day isolation upon return.
- Please ensure your residents are filling out the LOA forms (electronically, esp. if quarantined). We are accepting electronic signatures on LOA forms at this time. All LOA request forms for residents must be sent via email to pgres@ualberta.ca for processing.
- The Leave of Absence form can be found on the [PGME website Forms Cabinet](#).

Residents involvement in suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases

- All residents are expected to continue training in their assigned rotations as much as possible as these experiences are required for their certification. When dealing with patients with either suspected or confirmed COVID-19, the minimal number of residents required to care for the patient should be involved. Only pregnant or immunocompromised residents are permitted to avoid these patients. Such an accommodation is obtained through discussion with the program director and communicated to the rotation coordinator/supervisor.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramona Kearney".

Dr. Ramona Kearney
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education