

PGME COVID-19 Update 16**May 27, 2020****2:00pm**

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to postgraduate medical education during these unprecedented times. Regularly review our [COVID-19 google site](#) for updated communications and answers to frequently asked questions. If your question has not been answered, please submit it to our office using the linked [google form](#).

Written Exams, OSCEs, simulation, and other in-person educational activities

We have been informed by the University that educational activities must continue to be provided remotely in most circumstances. Requests for exemptions must be in writing to the Dean for initial approval and then forwarded to a university committee. Exemptions would have to indicate the critical nature of the learning that cannot be provided in any other way than in-person. As this will mostly apply to simulation activities I have asked Dr. Jon Duff, FoMD Director for Simulation to write an application for exemption for such critical activities on behalf of all postgraduate medical education programs.

We are asking all residency programs to provide remote exams rather than in-person exams. Should it not be possible to do so and these activities take place on non-University property then no exemption request is required. However, I refer you to the document below to ensure you are abiding by the guidelines on physical distancing, number of people in a room, PPE use where physical distancing cannot be attained, screening for COVID-19 symptoms, tracking illness and following contact tracing requirements, room cleaning after use, etc. A decision for in-person teaching and assessing is not to be taken lightly. To facilitate remote assessments the university is acquiring proctoring software that can enable remote exams. I hope this will be available soon and will keep you updated.

The document from Alberta Health re postsecondary institutions can be found here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-post-secondary-institutions.pdf>

Many programs have done amazing work in converting AHD and formal rounds to remote delivery. Academic Technologies can assist with converting other learning opportunities and formal assessments. Please get in touch with them to do so.

Social events

We have received inquiries from a number of programs asking how they can manage meeting new residents and fellows this year. I am sorry to say there can be no barbecues, lunches, dinners, receptions or sharing of any food and drink of any kind as per the Medical Officer of Health guidelines. This also means there can be no in-person celebrations of final year residents and fellows leaving the program. I know these social events are a big part of a program's traditions. Please try to think of virtual ways to say goodbye to those leaving and welcome and support your new learners.

International trainees currently abroad memo

Fellowship Educational Supervisors, Residency Program Directors and PGME Trainees who are currently abroad received [recommendations and instructions](#) earlier this week pertaining to July 1, 2020 start dates. It is important to let our office know of possible deferred starts.

Virtual interviews for the 2021 Medicine Subspecialty, Pediatric Subspecialty, and Family Medicine, Enhanced Skills Matches

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada's Board of Directors has decided that all interviews for the 2021 Medicine Subspecialty Match, Pediatric Subspecialty Match and Family Medicine, Enhanced Skills Match will be in a virtual format including those for local candidates. Key timelines will remain the same. Additional information about this announcement can be found [here](#).

Electives

Nationally, the Program Directors of Internal Medicine have agreed to cancel out of town electives for blocks 1-3. All other programs can continue to review and approve electives for the 2020/2021 academic year as per our previous communication:

For any elective the following must be considered to determine the educational value of the elective:

- Whether the program director deems the experience warrants risks of travel
- Whether the accepting school can provide a good experience
- Management of illness if one contracts COVID-19 while on elective
- Whether that province will require a self-isolation period on arrival
- Potential of requirement for self-isolation on return

Any elective planned for next year could be cancelled by the accepting school or by our school for reasons pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents must have an alternate local rotation planned in case of cancellation of the elective.

Best regards,



Dr. Ramona Kearney
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education