

PGME COVID-19 Update 17**June 3, 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](#).

Exemption request to permit in-person educational activities

Last week I indicated to you that as a result of the university's decision for educational activities to remain delivered in remote means for the fall term, a process was developed to request exemptions to this requirement. Exemptions could be requested for critical activities that could not be managed in a remote way such as simulation activities. Dr. Jon Duff, Faculty Director Simulation has submitted a request for simulation activities in FoMD that occur on university and AHS property. This request is assessed first by our Dean and, if approved, the request goes to the university committee adjudicating such requests. If you have an educational activity that cannot be done by remote means and is not a simulation activity please contact the PGME office to obtain more information and the forms to request an exemption.

Core Internal Medicine Electives

National agreement has now been reached on an approach to electives for Internal Medicine residents. Incoming electives (elective requests from other schools) for subspecialty areas of Internal Medicine will generally not be approved for Blocks 1-3. There are some exceptions that will be considered i.e. residents from schools where such a subspecialty does not exist to provide the resident with this experience. The process for requesting electives has not changed.

Interviews for non-CaRMS programs

It has been announced that all interviews for CaRMS' matches this coming year will be in a virtual format. It has now been decided that all interviews for any residency program will be in a virtual format. If you require assistance with this process please contact the PGME office and we will connect you with those helping us.

COVID-19 contact

We are aware of new exposures to COVID-19 among our teaching faculty and residents. Please have the residents complete a Leave of Absence form identifying self-isolation for COVID contact on the form and process the LOA form in the usual way. Please also update the [google form](#) that is recording the number of your learners who are on leave because of COVID-19. It is found [here](#).

General information on Electives

I am repeating the information provided in the last update regarding electives due to continued inquiries.

Excepting the Internal Medicine subspecialty electives mentioned above, 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,

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

Dr. Ramona Kearney
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education