



September 23, 2020

PGME Update Covid Outbreak at FMC

I know you are all aware that a Covid outbreak has affected patients and health care workers on several units and CICU at FMC. Regular updates are being provided by AHS/WHS with instructions regarding the need for self-isolation and Covid testing. I received some inquiries from residents and programs regarding several issues that I want to bring to your attention:

Alternate Accommodations:

- Residents are understandably concerned about risk to household contacts due to suspected or confirmed Covid exposure. A reminder that partial funding is available to support the cost of alternate accommodations. The fund was generously established for PGME trainees by the **Arthur Child Foundation** and will cover 40% of the daily rate in selected hotels and Airbnb facilities. Attached to this email are the documents originally circulated in April with detailed information and instructions for reimbursement.

Requirement for 75% Completion

- The requirement to self-isolate may pose challenges in terms of the requirement to complete a minimum 75% of each rotation or educational experience. Please refer to the PGME memo of March 16, 2020 which outlines the possibility of reducing the minimum to no less than 50% as follows:

75% ROTATION COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

Residents impacted by COVID -19 may not be able to fulfill the existing requirement for completion of 75% of any single rotation. PGME provides the following principles to guide decision-making for residents and Program Directors:

....Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis for residents who are currently required to self-isolate as a consequence of having just returned from outside Canada, or as a consequence of an exposure. For those in CBME programs the Competence Committee may determine whether competence has been achieved and recommend to the RPC that the requirement for 75% attendance be waived. The trainee must, however, have completed no less than 50% of the rotation and the program will be required to request a waiver from PGME. For residents in time-based programs a similar process can take place but decision-making will be at the level of RPC if there is no Competence Committee in place. Decisions in this regard will not be subject to appeal.

The current situation with regard to residents isolating because of FMC exposures falls within the scope of this guidelines. Programs can consider a relaxation of the “75% rule” so long as the above process is followed.

PGME FAQ

- The FAQ on the PGME website remains operational and is monitored by the Assistant Deans and PGME Directors. Please feel free to submit questions. Every effort will be made to reply in a timely fashion.

Office of Resident Affairs & Physician Wellness

- The Office of Resident Affairs and Physician Wellness continues to function in a virtual format. The registered psychologist and social worker (Nora McQuarrie and Michelle Keough) are available to meet with residents or groups of residents and offer flexible appointment hours to accommodate our trainees.

<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/pgme/wellness/residents>

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The FMC outbreak has brought new concerns to an already stressful situation as we continue to navigate this pandemic. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.



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