



Postgraduate Medical Education  
Covid – 19 Update  
Nov 21, 2020

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, there is a pressing need to comply with WHS and PGME guidelines to ensure the safety of patients, learners, and faculty members. I continue to hear about lapses in adherence to guidelines for social distancing during in-person academic activities. Several learners and teaching faculty are now self-isolating due to recent exposure to Covid-19.

The safety and well-being of resident physicians, clinical fellows and teaching faculty is a priority. The measures outlined below are being implemented following consultation with both AHS and WHS. I am going to ask for the support of all involved to ensure compliance with the following:

- Suspension of all in-person academic/teaching activities. This decision will be reviewed intermittently as the status of the pandemic evolves
- Teaching activities at any of the simulation facilities may continue as these occur in a manner that is consistent with guidelines
- Programs should strongly consider options for virtual hand-over meetings. In-person hand-overs may continue so long as appropriate precautions are in place (see below)
- Maintenance of minimum 2 meters physical distancing
- Continuous masking EVEN with 2 meters physical distancing in place
- Avoid eating & drinking during any group activity since this results in temporary removal of masks
- Adherence to hand hygiene as recommended
- Regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces including phones, keyboards, door handles, etc

The most recent communications from AHS advise that “baseline PPE” includes a combination of continuous masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing. Under these conditions, health care workers exposed to asymptomatic patients who subsequently test positive for Covid-19 will generally not be restricted from work -- so long as these guidelines have been followed.

The intent of these guidelines and reminders is to ensure a safe work and learning environment. We are all dealing with new pandemic-related challenges. The situation is fluid and recommendations will need to adapt as the situation evolves. Your patience and cooperation is very much appreciated.

Regards

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