



Postgraduate Medical Education
Covid – 19 Update
April 7, 2021

Resident Redeployment:

As you are already aware, the volume of Covid-19 patients continues to increase with a disproportionate number requiring ICU admission. I am writing at this time to ask for volunteers to support our colleagues in critical care environments.

Let me begin by providing some background to place this request in context. I am advised that 50% of all current provincial ICU Covid-19 cases are being managed in the Calgary zone. This caseload has necessitated opening additional beds. ICU's are already functioning above usual capacity with an expectation of growing demand over the next several weeks.

The Department of Critical Care Medicine adapted to this challenge by reinstating its ICU physician surge roster. Additional ICU attendings have been activated and faculty members from both Emergency Medicine and Anesthesia have been working in ICU for the last several months.

In the context of this urgent situation I would like to ask residents to consider volunteering for redeployment to an ICU for the start of either Block 12 or 13. I appreciate that this has been an exhausting year and many of you have already volunteered for redeployment for which I am grateful. I also recognize that many are preparing for Royal College and CFPC certification examinations and may not be available to participate immediately. Each of you will need to consider your individual circumstances and discuss with your program director to determine if redeployment is feasible.

Interested residents must have the approval of the home program director who can communicate directly with Dr. Kelly Millar (kelly.millar@ahs.ca) who will be coordinating this effort on behalf of PGME.

I would like to thank the PGME resident community in advance for considering this request.

Vaccination Roll-out:

Earlier this week I sent an email message to all programs to advise that AHS will offer vaccines to healthcare workers at sites where there are two or more concurrent Variant of Concern outbreaks. I also want to make you aware that immunization of all healthcare workers, including students, assigned to acute care facilities is expected to be part of phase 2C which is meant to begin at the end of April. A full list of phases is available at <https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx>

Royal College Certification Examinations:

The response to the current surge in Covid-19 cases varies between provinces. While Alberta will return to Phase 1 restrictions, the province of Ontario announced a “stay-at-home” order last evening. In recognition of the concern and questions being raised by exam candidates, the Royal College circulated an update with regard to the spring certification exams which I have reproduced below:

- 1. As of right now, hotel exam centres and the services to support our examinations at those centres are deemed “essential” and not affected by current proposed “stay at home” orders. All 17 Canadian hotel*

exam sites have implemented a cleanliness protocol and we are adhering to local Public Health guidelines. More information can be found on our website, under the tab “[What to expect on exam day: FAQs](#).” We kindly ask that candidates not congregate prior to registration and following the completion of their exam and to respect local health guidelines.

- 2. Royal College spring exams are proceeding as planned, with dates, times and locations previously communicated, and can be found on our website.*
- 3. Our examinations, both written and applied, are planned for safe delivery to candidates, with each candidate assigned their own individual hotel room.*
- 4. For applied/oral exams, candidates are interacting virtually through the exam interface. Candidates are not to be in the same room as your examiners. More information on applied exams can be found on our website.*
- 5. Any candidate ordered to an unexpected quarantine/isolation should notify the Royal College through exams2021@royalcollege.ca 48 hours in advance of their exam date for the necessary registration and hardware/software checks for conversion to a remote online exam delivery.*

The pandemic continues to be a challenge both personally and professionally. Please do not hesitate to reach out for support by contacting resources such as the Office of Resident Affairs and Physician Wellness or AMA Physician & Family Support Program:

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

<https://www.albertadoctors.org/services/pfsp>

Many thanks to our residents, fellows, program directors and administrators for your patience and collaboration during this difficult period.



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