



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Department Heads, Program Directors, Program Administrative Assistants, Residents & PGME Staff

**SUBJECT:** 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE (includes URGENT NOTIFICATION)

**FROM:** Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, PGME

**DATE:** March 10, 2020

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### **HIGH PRIORITY NOTIFICATION ON A RECENT DECISION:**

The Emergency Medicine Department has made a decision that all off-service residents will not be allowed in the ED commencing this Wednesday (tomorrow, 11 March 2020) until further notice. I will be working with all PDs of those programs who send their residents to ED to ensure how their educational needs will be addressed. Please note that discussions are under way at the senior leadership level to determine next steps.

### **And the rest.....**

The Postgraduate Medical Education Office (PGME) is committed to the health, protection and personal safety of the Postgraduate medical trainees, faculty and staff at the University of Saskatchewan. The role of our office in addressing public health crises is one of coordination and information sharing - with residents, teaching hospitals, stakeholder agencies and various departments.

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Public Health Agency of Canada are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19, further [information for the public](#) and [information for health care providers](#) is available on the Government of Saskatchewan website and will be updated as needed.

The information provided below is intended to guide residents, faculty and staff through this event.

### **In the Workplace:**

Postgraduate learners are both employees and students of the University of Saskatchewan as well as healthcare providers at multiple healthcare facilities throughout the province. Due to this expansive relationship and to ensure consistency of information, it is important that all healthcare providers have access to and use the same information. College of Medicine Postgraduate trainees, faculty and staff are advised to follow [Government of Saskatchewan protocol](#) for emerging public health issues when managing COVID-19. Facility signs are available to print for posting in Departments, they can be found on the [Government of Saskatchewan website](#).

### **COVID-19 – What Can You Do?**

- Wash your hands often and well
- Avoid touching your face, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick unless you are wearing the recommended personal protective equipment
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that are frequently touched

### **Exposure to COVID-19?**

If you feel you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or have concerns about exposure, notify your program director or direct supervisor immediately.

If you are sick:

- Cover your cough and sneezes and wash your hands
- [Stay home/self-isolate](#) when sick (do not go to school, work, or other public areas until symptoms have resolved and you are cleared to come off isolation by public health)

### **Residents Writing Exams:**

The Medical Council of Canada (MCC) is also monitoring the situation with COVID-19 and is developing contingency plans for various scenarios which may lead to service disruption. The MCC has reassured the PGME office that should the MCC Qualifying Examination Part II, scheduled for May 2 and 3, 2020 have to be cancelled in specific locations or nationally, and rescheduled to a later time, there will be no unnecessary delay in either providing provisional registration or extending educational licenses for impacted candidates.

The University, hospitals and affiliated teaching sites are accountable for the environmental, occupational and personal health and safety of their employees and have the right to make implementation decisions within their respective policies and resource allocations.

The following policies are available for Postgraduate trainees, programs, faculty and staff to review:

1. [PGME Resident Health & Safety Policy](#)
2. [University of Saskatchewan Health & Safety Policy](#)
3. [Saskatchewan Health Authority Emergency Preparedness \(Business Continuity\) Policy](#)

The [PGME office](#) will work with all residents, programs and staff during this time and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anurag Saxena  
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education  
University of Saskatchewan