



MEMORANDUM

TO: New Residents, Program Directors, Program Administrative Assistants

SUBJECT: COVID Update for New Residents

FROM: Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, PGME

DATE: April 29, 2020

Residency start date: July 1, 2020

There has been no change in the expected start date of July 1, 2020. The Resident Boot Camp scheduled for June 24 to 26, 2020 will proceed and will be held in a virtual format. When details have been finalized a communication will be sent from PGME to all incoming PGY1 residents.

Delay in start date

Any delay in residents starting will be managed at the time based on circumstances. Given the dynamic nature of the situation, these circumstances are difficult to predict two months in advance. However, it is expected that all incoming residents will follow the recommendations by the [Province of Saskatchewan](#). Any COVID related delays will be managed for all learners in a similar fashion. Individual delays will be managed on a case by base basis.

MCCQE1 exam

There is no requirement for incoming Canadian Medical Graduates to have passed the MCCQE1 in order to begin residency training at the U of S. This exam can be written by CMGs any time after residency has begun.

Advanced Cardiac Life Support

Incoming residents are required to have valid ACLS certification prior to commencement of training on July 1. New residents unable to meet this requirement due to COVID-19 course cancellations will be allowed to register and commence training with the expectation they will complete an ACLS course as soon as one becomes available. The College of Medicine is working with the Heart & Stroke Foundation and looking into possible solutions for residents needing ACLS after July 1. In the meantime, we ask that new residents without ACLS [register for available courses](#) with the Heart & Stroke Foundation that are scheduled before July 1. Please note that residents are responsible for all costs related to ACLS as noted on the CaRMS website.

Self-isolation prior to the start of residency

The PGME office is following the guidelines set by the [Province of Saskatchewan](#) with respect to self isolation. In Saskatchewan, currently only residents who arrive from outside Canada, or who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19, are required to self-isolate for two weeks. We do not yet know if a two week self-isolation period will be in place in June and would encourage residents coming from other provinces to arrive in time to allow for self-isolation, if needed, in order to commence residency training on July 1. Residents coming from outside Canada should plan to arrive in Canada in time to self-isolate so they are ready to commence training on July 1.

Personal information

Your personal information may be shared between the College of Medicine and its affiliated agencies for the purpose of your training at the University of Saskatchewan, including but not limited to employment and personal matters, training and program activities, considerations involving pay and benefits, applications you may submit for consideration (i.e. leave of absence, accommodation, etc.), or disciplinary review matters.

Safety and wellness

We continue to monitor and support the health and wellbeing of our current residents and the same will be true for new residents. Part of your orientation this year will include information about safety when working in this pandemic. It is the commitment of the U of S and all our clinical care partners that new residents will have the appropriate personal protective equipment for their work and will receive the relevant training on how to use it. The safety of all our health care workers is paramount.

While there is so much going on around you during this time, please don't forget to take care of yourself! There are a variety of wellness resources available and we encourage you to visit the PGME [Resident Resource Office](#) to learn more.

The [PGME office](#) will work with all residents, programs and staff during this time and are available to answer any questions you may have. We will keep everyone updated and appreciate your patience during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Saxena".

Dr. Anurag Saxena
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education