



MEMORANDUM

TO: Provincial Department Heads, Program Directors, Program Administrators,
Residents, RDoS and PGME Staff

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Updates: Vaccinations/International Travel/Masks/Vacation

FROM: Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, PGME

DATE: July 4, 2022

The PGME office continues to provide the College of Medicine community with the most recent Saskatchewan Health Authority and University of Saskatchewan updates regarding COVID-19 whenever possible. PGME, USASK and Government of Saskatchewan [COVID-19 updates are available on the PGME website](#).

VACCINATIONS:

Proof of vaccination is no longer required to access the University of Saskatchewan or Saskatchewan Health Authority; this includes new incoming residents. Vaccination is still recommended as a safe and effective way to limit the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:

The University of Saskatchewan has lifted the international travel ban. Residents wanting to embark on academic-related travel abroad (depending on the travel destination) will not have to go through the travel exemption request process. Residents are still required to go through the usual pre-departure process.

MASKS:

Beginning July 4, 2022, and continuing until August 29, 2022, the university will pause mask protocol and move to a mask-friendly environment at USASK facilities. Masks will not be mandatory indoors at that time, but they will still be highly recommended. Medical masks are required to enter any SHA facility or program area,

VACATION:

As of July 1, 2022, PGME will be reverting to the pre-covid vacation carry-over process for all new incoming residents (maximum of 10 carry-over days per the Collective Agreement). Over the next year, all other residents should be strongly encouraged to use up any additional vacation carryover as all days must be used prior to the end of residency training. End of residency training refers to: completions, transfers, resignations, and dismissals. Programs will be responsible to pay out any unused vacation at the end of a resident's training.

The PGME office is here to assist you throughout this process. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ms. Reola Mathieu at reola.mathieu@usask.ca.

Sincerely,

Anurag Saxena MD, M.Ed., MBA, FRCPC
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education