



MEMORANDUM

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

SUBJECT: 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE
REMINDERS AND CLARIFICATIONS
(RESIDENCY DURATION, WORK EXPECTATIONS, SOCIAL DISTANCING & SAFETY)

FROM: Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, PGME

DATE: August 14, 2020

This is to remind and provide clarification to our residents and educational administrators (Program Directors and Program Administrative Assistants) about the following aspects of residency education.

Please pay close attention to messaging from the SHA and the Ministry of Health's webpage and communications re Covid-19.

DURATION OF RESIDENCY AND COMPLETION DATES

All efforts should be made to consider alternate placements on other learning experiences for the completion of residency at the original end of training date (e.g.; research, teaching, provision of distance telehealth and other activities that would be unique to your program or other duties as determined by the program). Unique situations would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

1. The PGME did permit carry-over of vacations and educational leaves into the next academic year. Please ensure these are utilized within the year (preferably) or within the duration of the duration of the residency.
2. In extremely rare cases (usually due to a combination of factors), should all competencies not be acquired by the original end of training date, please discuss the possibility of extension of training (initially at the program level and then with PGME).

WORK EXPECTATIONS

All rotations are as assigned by the Program Director considering resident input. Please follow all primary and back-up schedules. No resident should be under pressure to work, if there are concerns re Covid-19 exposure. Please exercise caution and prudence for your own well-being and for the well-being of your colleagues, other health care team members and patients. Usual steps need to be followed if a resident is going to be unable to come to work. Please follow all SHA, Public Health guidelines regarding self-isolation, testing and return to work.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

All social distancing and preventive precautions **MUST** be followed in non-clinical interactions (academic sessions, meetings, social visits) whether in or outside of the hospital setting. In the clinical setting please follow SHA guidelines and standard of care.

SAFETY

Your safety is critical. When providing clinical care please remain cognizant of and exercise appropriate safety precautions and responsiveness for your personal safety and the safety of your colleagues and patients. There is an overall PGME safety policy and all programs have safety policies tailored to their unique nature. Please review these and ensure you are up to date with the policies and procedures.

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

This document was developed based upon dialogue/feedback from SHA, recent questions and events and national-level discussions amongst the Postgraduate Deans of the medical schools in Canada.