

MEMORANDUM

Royal College Guidance on Meeting Training Requirements in the Era of COVID-19

Date: February 2, 2021

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To: Postgraduate Deans, CBME Leads, Specialty Committee Chairs, AFC Chairs, Program Directors, AFC Directors

Cc: Program Managers, Program Administrators

From: Dr. Ken Harris, Deputy CEO and Executive Director, Specialty Education
Dr. Jason Frank, Director, Specialty Education, Strategies and Standards
Dr. Jolanta Karpinski, Associate Director, Specialties Unit

Date: February 2, 2021

Re: Royal College Guidance on Meeting Training Requirements in the Era of COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, the Royal College remains committed to working with stakeholders to guide and enable your decision-making in maintaining national standards. This memo is being disseminated to remind you of the current guidance on meeting training requirements during the pandemic. It is our priority to ensure the safety and support of faculty, trainees, and administrative staff involved in postgraduate medical education, while working to uphold national standards of medical education so that residents and trainees are not disadvantaged in any way.

Existing guidance documents still in effect

In June 2020, we released three guides to assist you in ensuring trainees meet the requirements of training and present key considerations for different types of programs in the era of COVID-19. The information in these guides remains accurate and we encourage you to refer to the guides as a first step.

- [Guide 1: Time-based programs](#)
- [Guide 2: Competence by Design programs](#)
- [Guide 3: Areas of Focused Competence programs](#)

We recognize that as the pandemic continues, the impact on the delivery of both care and training may change. Discussions regarding mitigating the impact of training, or potential lengthening of training, are the purview of an individual PGME office. As such, your Postgraduate Dean remains your best contact point.



Looking forward, decisions regarding the termination of the COVID-19 guidelines will be made in collaboration with our stakeholders and we are committed to providing all programs and schools ample notice when the guidance is no longer to be applied.

Additional resources available on our website

You may also find the most up to date information and resources on the [Impact of COVID-19 on residency education](#) page on our website. Topics include:

- Virtual teaching resources
- Webinar recording: CBD during the COVID-19 pandemic – Sharing adaptations and strategies from the medical education community (April 9, 2020)

You may also wish to join an upcoming webinar – *Maintaining an excellent training program during a pandemic*. More details will be shared shortly.

We are committed to keeping lines of communication open

We recognize that it is an exceptionally challenging time for our entire healthcare community, including medical educators, and we are here to support you however you need. If you have specific questions, we encourage you to reach out to educationstrategy@royalcollege.ca.

The Royal College would like to thank you for your continuing commitment to working together to uphold the national standards as we collectively navigate the ongoing impacts of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Harris, MD, FRCSC, FACS, Deputy CEO and Executive Director, Specialty Education

Jason R. Frank, MD, MA(Ed), FRCPC, Director, Specialty Education, Strategies and Standards

Jolanta Karpinski, MD, FRCPC, Associate Director, Specialties