

RPC Report (March 29, 2020)

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Our residency program has been busy responding to the COVID pandemic. Off-service residents will not be returning to our department for the foreseeable future. Anesthesia residents have had some sub-specialty rotations cancelled due to OR closures around the city. The vast majority of our residents scheduled on anesthesia rotations are now at FMC since FMC has had the least number of OR closures. PGME has thus far requested that we send 3 resident volunteers to ICU next block; this is in addition to the other 2 anesthesia residents we already had scheduled to be on ICU next block – meaning that ~20% of our resident cohort will be working in the ICU next block. We also currently have 5 residents on quarantine who should all be returning to work next week.

A memo was sent to all faculty members on March 25 informing them that residents should not be involved in the airway management of COVID-suspected or COVID-positive patients at any hospital. We have also pulled residents from the FMC Code Blue and Trauma teams since their primary role on those teams was for airway management. Residents may serve as a clean ‘runner’ or ‘assistant’ in the non-intubation/extubation phases of perioperative care.

We are doing our best to deploy and redeploy our residents in a manner such that they will not require an extension of training and that they will not miss out on important parts of their 5-year training program. We have also been diligent and emphatic in informing them of AHS guidelines regarding matters such as PPE use and hospital attire policies.

The RPC asks that faculty members do their utmost to protect the health and safety of our residents. Medicine remains a highly hierarchical profession, and it can be a challenge at the best of times for our residents to advocate for themselves and their patients. The RPC and PGME are sensitive to the unique challenges to trainees during this pandemic, and both organizations will rigorously defend and enforce all policies and procedures that in the best interests of the residents