



## PGME COVID 19 UPDATE

MARCH 19 2020

### RESIDENT-ONLY N95 FITTINGS:

I am aware that all time slots for Resident – Only N95 fittings on March 30 are now filled. Crystal will continue to add names to a wait list so please make her aware if you are still in need of an appointment for fitting.

PGME is working with WHS to see if they have capacity to either extend the session on March 30 or provide additional sessions. Also looking at possibility of offering sessions at other sites. Thank you for your patience. My understanding is that WHS is overwhelmed with requests.

I am also exploring possibility of using other providers to ensure all residents are properly tested.

### RESIDENT REDEPLOYMENT

You will have received a copy of the document entitled *Principles for Redeployment of Resident Physicians and Fellows in Times of Exceptional Health System Need*. The document articulates principles for reassignment of Postgraduate Trainees (PGTs) to areas of greatest need. Both Universities, Alberta Health Services and PARA developed the document collaboratively to address the current pandemic situation.

I am communicating separately with your Program Directors to outline how this process will be operationalized. Every effort will be made to make decisions regarding redeployment in a manner that is consistent with each trainee's skill set and in consideration of prioritizing PGT safety while still addressing areas of greatest need for health care providers.

### CFPC EXAMINATIONS

CFPC continues to work on alternate arrangements for the certification exams. My understanding is that CFPC is looking at dates in October 2020 for the Simulated Office Oral (SOO). A decision regarding the written **Short-Answer Management Problem (SAMP)** component of the exam is still under consideration.

### RCPS EXAMINATIONS

I hope to have updated information on the RCPS examinations following a Teleconference scheduled for this Friday.

### FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR URGENT RETURN FROM ELECTIVES ETC

This concern was brought to attention by PARA. I understand that some of you have incurred costs as a result of being called back from electives. I am sure you will understand that PGME cannot address this issue immediately but will certainly create a process to review this situation when urgent matters are settled related to COVID-19. I appreciate that the pandemic has caused disruption to many Resident Physicians, and particularly those who were pulled back from electives or are having future electives cancelled.

For the moment, **please retain copies of all invoices or other documents** related to expenses incurred. PGME will develop a strategy to review this situation on a non-urgent basis.

**THIS WEEKEND**

The work around COVID-19 will continue over the weekend. Please check your email intermittently for updates from PGME. I will be checking my own email on a regular basis and responding to any emergent issues as they arise. I am also available to your Program Directors throughout the weekend by either email or phone.