Memo

To: PGME Program Directors, Program Administrators, Residents and Fellows

From: Lisa Welikovitch MD FRCP

Date: Nov 8, 2021

Re: International Travel and Hosting Program Events

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International Travel:

International travel has been restricted for most of the pandemic in accordance with guidance provided by both the Federal Government and University of Calgary. Both sets of guidelines were recently updated to allow for non-essential travel. From a PGME perspective this will include attendance at conferences, meetings and international electives.

There are some important caveats to consider however:

• Please ensure you have taken all necessary steps to travel safely and without interruption to and from your intended destination.
• Residents and fellows should consult the Government of Canada website for updated information on travel, testing, and border requirements for departures and return to Canada.
  https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid
• Updated University of Calgary travel requirements are posted at:
• Please review and complete all the steps listed under Required Actions for Post Graduate Medical Residents and note that there are additional steps and approvals required for travel to countries designated “High Risk” and that travel to “Extreme Risk” destinations is prohibited.
• Please plan well in advance to ensure that all documentation is complete and approvals in place prior to departure.

There are some important considerations that should be discussed by trainees with program directors in deciding whether international travel is reasonable. There will likely be added costs associated with mandatory Covid testing. If a trainee tests positive for Covid while out of the country there may be more costs incurred related to local requirements for isolation. Unfortunately, PGME will not be able to provide financial support to mitigate these circumstances. Finally, a delay in returning to Calgary may have implications for completing a minimum 75% of the current or subsequent rotation.

Program Events and Risk Management

As discussed at the last PGME Committee meeting, events on and off campus may now proceed so long as they are conducted in alignment with provincial and municipal regulations and university guidelines. A Ucalgary Event Registration Form will need to be submitted for events with more than 15 participants.

Detailed instructions and a link to the registration form can be found at:
  https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/risk-management-insurance/events/event-guidelines

For meetings or events taking place in an AHS facility, participants will need to adhere to all AHS requirements for physical distancing, masking, etc. Events held at a University of Calgary venue will be guided by university regulations found below:
For events that are booked off-campus the university advises that participants should adhere to the requirements of the venue.

When planning events please consider that there may be variability in the degree to which learners feel comfortable with relaxed regulations, and particularly as it pertains to removal of masks and absence of social distancing.

Individual health care concerns are likely to vary amongst faculty and trainee participants. To ensure an inclusive and safe environment I would like to encourage programs to consider the needs of all attendees and the impact on individuals who may decline to participate.

These are challenging times with complex factors to consider.

I am available to discuss further with individual programs as needed to be helpful.

Thanks to all for your patience and support.

Lisa Welikovitch MD FRCP
Associate Dean, PGME