



Role of Learners During Large Scale Public Health Emergencies

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<p>Implementation Authority Associate Dean, PGME</p>	
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1 Purpose

It is recognized that rare circumstances may develop where the health care system is called upon to respond to extraordinary and urgent situations such as mass trauma, wildfires, widespread flooding, toxic spills or other needs for large-scale evacuation.

Postgraduate trainees are members of the health care team whose skills may provide a critically needed resource during a public health emergency. Residents are simultaneously employees of Alberta Health Services and students registered with Postgraduate Medical Education. In all cases, including large-scale emergencies, residents must have access to reasonable supervision during delivery of health care.

Normal

2 Scope

The policy applies to all Residents and Fellows in all training programs at the Cumming School of Medicine

3 Definitions

- a) "AHS" means Alberta Health Services.
- b) "Associate Dean, PGME" means the Associate Dean of PGME at the CSM at the University
- c) "CPSA" means College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, the provincial regulatory body
- d) "CSM" means Cumming School of Medicine

- e) “CMPA” means Canadian Medical Protective Association
- f) “Fellow” means a physician registered in a PGME Training Program who has completed a core residency program who is pursuing a sub-specialty training.
- g) “Medical Learner” refers to Residents and Fellows participating in a PGME Training Program.
- h) “PARA” means the Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta
- i) “PGME” means Postgraduate Medical Education at the CSM.
- j) “PGME Training Program” means any of CSM’s clinical and non-clinical programs of study that require a Resident to be registered in the RCPSC or CFPC accredited training programs and which require the Resident to complete a Placement, and may require an Instructor to participate in the Placement.
- k) “Policy” means the PGME Policy of Role of Learners in Mass Casualty
- l) ‘Postgraduate Trainees’ means Residents and Fellows registered with PGME at CSM
- m) “Program Director” means the Appointee responsible for the overall conduct of the PGME Training Program in a discipline.
- n) “RCPSC” means the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the body responsible for accreditation, examination and Resident certification for RCPSC programs.
- o) “Resident” means a physician registered in a PGME Training Program that is administered by the CSM and leads to RCPSC or CFPC certification.
- p) “University” means the University of Calgary

4 Standard/Practice

Resident Responsibilities

- 4.1** Postgraduate Trainees must be familiar with Alberta Health Services Emergency Response codes. These include:
- Code Red – Fire
 - Code White – Violence/Aggression
 - Code Purple – Hostage
 - Code Yellow – Missing Person
 - Code Black – Bomb Threat
 - Code Grey – Shelter in Place/Air Exclusion
 - Code Green – Evacuation
 - Code Brown – Chemical Spill/Hazardous Substance Release
 - Code Orange – Mass Casualty Incident

- 4.2** In the event of activation of Emergency Response Codes Black, Brown, Grey or Orange, all Postgraduate Trainees should contact their Program Office by phone, email or in person for further instruction, if appropriate given the type of activation.
- 4.3** Postgraduate Trainees must ensure that the PGME Office has their current contact information.
- 4.4** Postgraduate Trainees should be familiar with guidelines regarding the role of physicians during public health emergencies published by CPSA and CMPA.

PGME Responsibilities

- 4.5** The PGME Office will function as a contact centre for distribution of information and instructions to Residency and Fellowship Programs.
- 4.6** PGME must ensure that Postgraduate Trainees have adequate training in the safe use of Personal Protective Equipment.
- 4.7** Postgraduate Trainees have the right to refuse clinical assignments if adequate PPE is not available or training in use of PPE is not provided.
- 4.8** Assignment of Postgraduate Trainees to a clinical service during a large-scale emergency will be at the discretion of the Section Chief or Department Head, with approval of the Program Director and Associate Dean.
- 4.9** Decisions regarding emergency redeployment of Postgraduate Trainees will be made in accordance with existing policy (Principles of Redeployment of Resident Physicians and Fellows in Times of Exceptional Health System Need) and in all cases, requires the approval of the Associate Dean, PGME.
- 4.10** Routine academic activities may be suspended during a large-scale public health emergency.
- 4.11** Postgraduate Trainees may be excused from usual teaching responsibilities during a large-scale public health emergency.
- 4.12** Postgraduate Trainees with underlying health conditions, immunosuppressed states, or pregnancy who wish to be excused from front-line delivery of health care during large-scale emergencies if exposure confers increased risk must make their request for accommodations according to the PGME Resident Accommodations Policy. In this instance, residents may be redeployed to lower-risk clinical or non-clinical activities.
- 4.13** Postgraduate Trainees who contract, or are exposed to, a communicable disease may be isolated or quarantined according to Alberta Health and/or AHS protocols.
- 4.14** Amendments to existing call requirements during a large-scale public health emergency require input and approval from stakeholders including PGME at University of Calgary and University of Alberta, AHS and PARA.



Postgraduate Medical Education
Operating Standard

- 5 Related Policies** Resident Accommodation Policy
University of Calgary Environment, Health and Safety Policy

- 6 Related Information** Alberta Health Services Hazard Preparedness
<https://www.alberta.ca/hazard-preparedness.aspx>
CMPA Statement on Public Health Emergencies & Catastrophic Events
[CMPA - Public health emergencies and catastrophic events](#)
Province of Alberta Public Health Act
[Public Health Act](#)

- 7 History** September 21, 2020 Approved by PGME Committee
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