



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Operating Standard: Role of Learners During Large Scale Public Health Emergencies

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Approval Authority PGME Committee	
Implementation Authority Associate Dean, PGME	
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Preamble

- 1 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 need for large-scale evacuation.

Postgraduate trainees are members of the health care 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.

Definitions

- 2
 - 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

Scope **3** The policy applies to all Residents and Fellows in all training programs at the Cumming School of Medicine

Resident Responsibilities **4**

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

**PGME
Responsibilities**

- 4.5 The PGME Office will function as a contact center 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 or training in use of PPE is not available.
- 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
- 4.9 Decisions regarding emergency redeployment of Postgraduate Trainees will be made in accordance with existing policy (*Principles for 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 may be excused from front-line delivery of health care during large-scale emergencies if exposure confers increased risk. In this instance, residents may be redeployed to lower-risk clinical or non-clinical activities as determined by the Program Director.
- 4.13 Postgraduate Trainees who contract a pandemic illness will be quarantined according to AHS infection control 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.

References:

Alberta Health Services Hazard Preparedness

<https://www.alberta.ca/hazard-preparedness.aspx>

University of Calgary Occupational Health and Safety Policy

www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/occupational-health-and-safety-policy-editorial-changes-oct-19-2016.pdf

CMPA Statement on Public Health Emergencies & Catastrophic Events

www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/membership/protection-for-members/principles-of-assistance/public-health-emergencies-and-catastrophic-events-the-cmpa-will-help

Province of Alberta Public Health Act

<https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/P37.pdf>

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