

April 2 2020 FAQs

La Fédération des médecins spécialistes (FMSQ) has told us not to teach certain activities during this time. What should we do?

A: Attached you will find the collective response to this FMSQ announcement from Quebec's four Faculties of Medicine collectively sent their official response to the FMSQ's message. The Faculties' response underscores the critical importance of supporting the educational mission to ensure our students and residents stay on track in their learning and training trajectories. This position supports the Quebec government's statements on this topic, as well.

Reports of mistreatment are on the rise, what can PGME do about this?

A. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, reports of mistreatment are increasing. Yes, people are stressed, but this is not an excuse. Dr. Aalamian will discuss this with the DPSs on Monday. If you have been the victim of mistreatment, please report it to the President of ARM, [Dr. Annick Bérard-Giasson](#), or the Associate Dean of PGME, [Dr. Armand Aalamian](#). More information to come.

When will the RC exam take place?

A. It is very unlikely that there will be any exams this spring. We still have no information about when the RC will reschedule the exams.

When will the CFPC exam take place?

A. Potentially October 16-18 but, this date has not been confirmed.

Can I practise medicine even if I have not passed my licensing exam?

A. The CMQ will issue restricted licences, which are valid for one year. The restricted licence will allow you to practise medicine even if you have not written or passed your exam, including your French exam.

Are the *Teaching Residents to Teach* modules still mandatory at this time?

A. To be promoted, you must complete these modules. We will not waive this requirement.

Will training be extended due to the pandemic?

A. The PGME office would like to ensure that every training experience can count towards obtaining competencies. All specialties, including FM, have some leeway built into their training

expectations. Additionally, other experience could potentially be counted as valid training experience in order not to extend training. Dr. Aalamian continues to consult with his counterparts across Canada.

Why have I been given an ‘incomplete’ for my rotation, while I am on redeployment?

A. If you have been redeployed and receive an incomplete for your rotation, please do not be concerned. PGME will be recommending that PDs work with their competency committees to resolve this issue.

Will I be reimbursed for taxis and food (work related) during the pandemic?

A. Dr. Fata is working with the hospital foundations and Dr. Aalamian with the FMRQ and the MSSS to explore possibilities to secure funding for meals and taxis for residents. Keep your receipts to receive a refund.

Why have rural rotations been cancelled?

A. Montreal is a COVID-19 hot spot and, as a result, we have had to cancel rural rotations for eight designated regions for P11. The MSSS has told us that residents from Montreal would have to self-quarantine for two weeks before starting their rural rotation. Dr. Aalamian and Dr. Dominique Archambault, PGME Director of Distributed Medical Education, are looking at alternative learning opportunities for P11 and possibly P12 and P13. We will prioritize Family Medicine PGY2s, as they need this training to graduate. For now, residents who live in Montreal and work in Chateauguay may travel back and forth. Residents currently in Gatineau may stay there to complete their scheduled rotation. Concerning Valleyfield, the 514/450 and Montérégie, we are looking at potential residency opportunities.

Do those coming back from a rural rotation need to self-quarantine for two weeks?

A. There is no need to self-quarantine when changing sites or returning to Montreal from a rural rotation. Also, when residents are deployed, we are making an effort to keep them at the same site.

What should I do during self-quarantine?

A. If you have to self-quarantine, contact your PD to ask what you can do at home to continue learning. If your PD doesn't have suggestions, contact [Dr. Tourian](#). He is exploring various training options—for example, he is asking UGME to about their needs to see if residents can provide support. For residents who are healthy but unable to redeploy, PDs will receive a list of activities you can be assigned. As well, we are changing the 75% rule to the 50% rule during the pandemic and redeployment, so if residents are away, their rotation can be valid despite the pandemic.

What if some service chiefs ask for more physicians than necessary? They are unnecessarily putting more doctors at risk of infection.

A. PGME cannot monitor all services. If there are issues, talk with your PD.

What is the ARM WhatsApp group?

A. The ARM is creating a WhatsApp group with one representative per program. The goal is to gather information in one spot. Please fill this [form](#) if you want to join.

Dr. Annick Bérard-Giasson also invited residents to email her if they have questions. She meets daily with PGME to address urgent matters.

What is being done about the PPE shortage?

A. PGME is not directly involved in PPE management. All Quebec hospitals are reporting challenges with prioritizing of PPE. The PGME directive is clear, if residents do not have access to the appropriate PPE, they should not treat patients with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Is PGME ensuring that PPE, especially N95 masks, are being fairly distributed to residents as opposed to staff who will not have direct contact with COVID patients?

A. PGME is not involved in direct PPE management. Fit checks have replaced fit testing. When using a regular universal mask, do the positive and negative test to ensure you have a seal (breath in and out, making sure no air escapes). Masks are available to those treating COVID patients, dealing with intubation or airway issues.

Is an extension of training possible for PGY5 in specialties?

A. We are doing everything possible not to extend the training of PGY5s. PDs have been instructed to contact the RC specialty committee to find out if mandatory rotations can be waived.

What is the role of pediatric residents/subspecialty fellows in redeployment? We are getting separate emails from the MCH and PGME/RRH about redeployments, and there is confusion.

A. Pediatric residents/subspecialty fellows will remain at the MCH for now. This decision may be revisited.

How much notice will we have before we are redeployed?

A. About two to three days.

FROM THE FACULTY COUNCIL

Is there any chance that residency may begin earlier, or later, than July 1 for incoming residents?

A: The current plan is to begin on July 1, but some challenges remain. Residencies in the clinical environment are ongoing.

Are IMG fellows included in these regulations?

A: IMG fellows are like any other fellow and, if they have the appropriate skills, they will be redeployed.

Will clinical fellows continue to have a graduation date of June 30? Those from outside of Canada would have difficulties to extend considering issues regarding visa, lodging etc.

A: Our goal is to ensure trainees scheduled to graduate on June 30 to finish on time. We are exploring various methods to achieve this goal. Visa extensions will not be an issue as we have pre-established mechanisms to allow for extensions of training when necessary.

R5s across Canada are very concerned about the Royal College examination being delayed. Are there any efforts done to have the possibility to write it earlier, before July 1? In these unprecedented times... why does it seem like no unprecedented efforts are being made for R5s?

A. All Faculties of Medicine in Canada are working collaboratively with the RCPSC, national licensing authorities and learner organizations to explore the best solutions to address the challenges related to the delays in administration of the certification examinations. The primary goal is to assure the safety of the residents, and meet the needs of the healthcare system during this global pandemic.