



April 06, 2020

Dear residents: (University of Saskatchewan Residents):

On behalf of the College of Medicine leadership, I want to thank you for your commitment to and continuing involvement in providing care to the people of Saskatchewan during the pandemic. We are cognizant of the personal impact on you and your families and your residency. All decisions made in this evolving and complex situation involve consultations (local and national), evidence (to the degree it is locally adaptable) and with our unwavering commitment to your success.

1. **RESIDENT WELL-BEING:** In addition to the usual resources available to you, the following are being offered.
 - a. Increase in resources:
 - i. Website: the PGME website and the RDoS websites have updated (and continue to update) the resources available to you.
 - ii. Expanded services: The Resident Resource Office has expanded its service to include counselling through referrals. Please contact Ms. Gayathri Manoharan; gayathri.manoharan@usask.ca; tel: 306-966-1669.
 - b. Support during on-call: The College of Medicine will support residents on in-house call by providing \$20 per day for food till May 31. **This is effective from today, April 06, 2020.** For residents in Regina, complimentary food is available in the cafeteria. For all residents (at any site, including Regina) who either do not have access to or have been unable to avail of complimentary food service in their health service location (if available), please utilize the following process for reimbursement.
 - i. Residents will be responsible for providing their receipts along with evidence of service (copy of call schedule) and submitting their expenses through Concur on a bi-weekly basis.
 - ii. If you need assistance in submitting your claims, please submit a "Request a Reimbursement" e-form to Connection Point along with your receipts and they complete the process on your behalf.
 - iii. When submitting your claim, please use the default CFOPAL and change the approver to Ms. Loni Desanghere.
2. **REDEPLOYMENT:** This is to reiterate that all redeployment will occur according to the collaborative processes outlined in the previous PGME memos. Your safety and competencies and the impact on residency training will be considered and you and your program directors will be involved in the decisions.
3. **COVID-19 and PATIENT-ORIENTED RELATED RESEARCH:** There is an opportunity to be involved in COVID-19 related and/or and patient-oriented research, especially if you are engaged in non-clinical rotations. In addition to your local program resources, please contact Dr. Gary Groot (Program Director CIP: garygroot@gmail.com) should you be interested in pursuing this and send a copy of your initial inquire to PGME (Loni Desanghere; loni.desanghere@usask.ca)
4. **PEXIP APP FOR VIRTUAL CARE:** Please discuss with your PDs and if this virtual care tool is required then please send your request to emr@sma.sk.ca



5. **LICENCES:** Please refer to earlier communication (information provided by the CPSS included in the PGME memo dated March 25, 2020) about regular, emergency and provisional licences.
6. **SHA EMAIL:** This is to clarify that as required by the SHA activation of the SHA email is mandatory to ensure that you get direct communication during these times from the SHA that all healthcare workers need to know on regular and emergent basis. The process for activating this email is being sent directly to you separately.
7. **PERSONAL SAFETY AT WORK: For N95 mask fitting,** Ms. Gayathri Manoharan in the PGME Office is coordinating a prioritization schedule with the programs and the OH&S office. We have received the following information from OH&S.
 - a. Arrive 10 minutes before the start of their Respirator Fit Testing (RFT) appointment.
 - b. Do not smoke for 30 minutes prior to the start of your RFT appointment.
 - c. **IMPORTANT:** Be clean shaven in the previous 24 hours - preferably within 12 hours – so that the respirator seals to the skin effectively. If an employee or physician attends their RFT appointment not clean shaven, it will be cancelled and rescheduled.
 - d. Present yourself in the same personal condition as when using a respirator at work, including: hair buns, pony-tails, dentures, eyeglasses, contact lenses, etc.
 - e. Present yourself in such a way that personal effects or accessories such as head coverings, garments, facial jewelry, or other items do not come between the skin and the sealing surface of the respirator.
 - f. Bring any personal/specialized Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that would be required to be worn during respirator use to the RFT appointment such as: ear-muffs, hard hats, etc.
 - g. In the future there may be a need to fit additional physicians in the schedule due to an evolving workforce. At that time we will shift to a “Just in Time” model of fit testing.

The [PGME office](#) will work with all residents, programs and staff during this time and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anurag Saxena'.

Dr. Anurag Saxena
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education, University of Saskatchewan