

To: Program Directors, Program Administrative Assistants and Residents
From: Postgraduate Medical Education and Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan
RE: **Resident isolation (self- or imposed) Procedures and Expectations re: COVID-19 Pandemic**
Date: March 13, 2020

Safety of all staff, residents, patients and the public are of the utmost concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) and Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan (RDoS) have collaboratively written this memo to provide instruction as to what to do **when a resident must self-isolate or be under quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

PROCESS:

Residents who need to self-isolate or be quarantined:

- **Please note that as per Government of Saskatchewan and Health Canada announcement today, all travellers arriving in Canada from international points (including USA) are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days as a precaution. The residents need to self-isolate and not return to work for 14 days.**
- Residents who believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 should seek (or be directed by the program to seek) a primary care provider or local public health office (**call 811**) and follow their advice.
- Residents who need to be under self-isolation or quarantine may be directed to be assessed by a medical practitioner.
- Residents who believe they have been exposed must notify their Program Director (via Program Administrative Assistant if necessary) that self-isolation or quarantine is necessary
- The program will contact PGME office to let them know name of resident.
- PGME and the College of Medicine will determine if any further notification is required for public safety reasons.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

- All efforts will be made to ensure that residents who must self-isolate or be quarantined do not suffer unnecessary extension of training
- Programs and PGME will work together to determine how residents can adjust their learning to attain required competencies within existing timeframes. It is possible in rare cases that given the time away from the program may require an extension but all efforts will be made to ensure acquisition of competencies within the original time frame.
- Many departments and programs are making decisions regarding learner presence and we will keep you informed in a timely manner.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

- Residents under self-isolation or quarantine will remain on salaried pay throughout (there will be no change or stoppage to pay).
- Residents will not be required to use sick days, vacation days or any leave days while in isolation or quarantine.
- All efforts will be made to not ask other residents to “fill the gap” in call schedules caused by residents requiring isolation or quarantine. In instances where there are not enough staff physicians to provide service resulting in residents being asked to work excess call, all relevant articles of the collective agreement apply: residents must be asked to work excess call before scheduling and can say no if it is not feasible; and any excess call will be compensated as outlined in the collective agreement.

Regarding Travel and Examinations, a separate memorandum will be sent shortly.

Please contact PGME at 306-966-5536 or RDoS at 306-655-2134 should you have questions.