



MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Heads, Program Directors, Program Administrative Assistants, Residents, RDoS & PGME Staff

SUBJECT: 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE
Resident Illness-Related Leave and Return to Work During COVID-19

FROM: Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, PGME

DATE: December 15, 2020

Note: Please refer to the official SHA screening algorithm for decision making

<https://public.ehealthsask.ca/sites/COVID-19/>

This document offers firm return to work guidelines for residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The firmest guideline is that the SHA screening algorithm (link above) is satisfied.

Guidelines for Leave

1. No resident is to come to work if any new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as outlined in the above SHA guideline is present, and must contact OH&S or 811
2. If the resident has had exposure without PPE to a confirmed COVID-19 carrier, the resident must not come to work and is to contact OH&S or 811 for guidance on testing for COVID-19
3. Residents who engage in travel outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days as per public health guidelines
4. If the resident feels there is a possibility that any of the above conditions is met, they are to inform their rotation supervisor, program director and team leader and abstain from working

Guidelines for Return to Work

1. For return to work after illness-related leave, the SHA screening algorithm must be satisfied.
2. All symptom resolution must be sustained for 48 hours as a minimum standard
3. OH&S or 811 must be consulted in every case to ensure that no additional testing is required
4. The program director and rotation supervisor must be notified of symptom resolution and the input from OH&S or 811. The resident must then be approved to return to service by both the PD and rotation supervisor
5. If there are any further concerns, they are to be discussed prior to return to work
6. Under no circumstances will return to work be approved without both of symptom resolution for 48 hours and OH&S or 811 approval
7. If COVID-19 testing is recommended, return to work should not occur until the results of the testing have been disclosed and any further requirements based on these test results have been met



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Exemptions:

As per previous PGME memo on March 24, 2020 pregnant and immunocompromised residents are entitled to voluntary leave from clinical rotations. Residents with medical conditions deemed to be high risk by their care providers are also entitled to voluntary leave from clinical service.

Sincerely,

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

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