



MEMORANDUM

To: Postgraduate Deans, CBME Leads, Specialty Committee Chairs, AFC Chairs, Program Directors, AFC Directors

Cc: Program Managers, Program Administrators

From: Dr. Glen Bandiera, Executive Director, Specialty Education
Dr. Jason Frank, Director, Specialty Education, Strategies and Standards
Dr. Jolanta Karpinski, Associate Director, Specialties Unit

Date: January 24, 2022

Re: Royal College guidance on meeting training requirements in the era of COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic persists and we find ourselves in the midst of an outbreak of another variant, we recognize that it is an exceptionally challenging time for our entire healthcare community, including medical educators. We appreciate your dedication to training residents alongside providing patient care in often challenging circumstances, and recognize the need for flexibility that this entails. In response to a number of recent questions, this memo reiterates the Royal College's guidance on meeting training requirements during the pandemic.

The Royal College remains committed to working with stakeholders to guide and enable your decision-making in maintaining national residency education standards. It is our priority to ensure the safety of and support for faculty, trainees, and administrative staff involved in postgraduate medical education, while working to uphold national standards of medical education so that residents and trainees are not disadvantaged in any way.

Existing guidance documents still in effect

In June 2020, we released three guides to assist you in ensuring trainees meet the requirements of training and present key considerations for different types of programs in the era of COVID-19. These were recirculated in February 2021 with confirmation that they remain relevant and in effect. Although we are now in the third academic year of the pandemic, the information in these guides remains accurate and we encourage you to refer to the guides as a first step.

- [Guide 1: Meeting time-based training requirements](#)
- [Guide 2: Meeting competence-based \(CBD\) training requirements](#)
- [Guide 3: Meeting Areas of Focused Competence training requirements](#)



We recognize that as the pandemic continues, the impact on the delivery of both care and training may change. Discussions regarding mitigating the impact on training, providing alternative learning activities (e.g., simulation or video-based activities), or potential lengthening of training are the purview of an individual PGME office. As such, postgraduate deans remain the best contact point. In the meantime, the Royal College encourages all programs to continue their core academic teaching, appropriate supervision, and graduated progression of trainees.

Looking forward, decisions regarding the termination of the COVID-19 guidelines will be made in collaboration with our stakeholders and we are committed to providing all programs and schools ample notice when the guidance is no longer applicable.

Additional resources available on our website

You may also find the most up to date information and resources on the [Impact of COVID-19 on residency education](#) page on our website. Topics include:

- Virtual teaching resources
- Webinar recording: Maintaining a resilient training program during a pandemic (April, 22, 2021)
- Webinar recording: CBD during the COVID-19 pandemic: Sharing adaptations and strategies from the medical education community (April 9, 2020)

We are committed to keeping lines of communication open

If you have specific questions or require support, we encourage you to reach out to educationstrategy@royalcollege.ca.

The Royal College would like to thank you for your continuing commitment to working together to uphold the national standards as we collectively navigate the ongoing impacts of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Glen Bandiera, MD, FRCPC, MEd, BAsC (Engin), Executive Director, Specialty Education
Jason R. Frank, MD, MA (Ed), FRCPC, Director, Specialty Education, Strategies and Standards
Jolanta Karpinski, MD, FRCPC, Associate Director, Specialties