
Dear Postgraduate Learners,

Background:

A new SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern, Omicron, was identified on November 24, 2021. Multiple countries have now reported cases of Omicron, some with local community transmission. The Government of Canada has updated travel guidance and implemented travel restrictions to some countries, as a means to mitigate further spread of the variant. Given this development, many of our hospital partners are implementing international travel requirement guidelines for staff, faculty and learners.

In the face of this development, we know that many of you may be struggling with difficult decisions about whether to travel in the coming weeks. For the most up-to-date information regarding Canadian entry and testing requirements, please refer to the [Government of Canada website on travel, testing, and borders](#). Note that testing, isolation, and quarantine may be required upon (re)entry to Canada. If you are planning to travel, please review this site for information related to travel advisories.

What does this mean for PG Learners?:

Learners who choose to travel during the holiday period, must abide by both the Public Health guidelines and Hospital Occupational Health guidelines (for the institution at which they are placed) with respect to testing and required quarantine when returning from out of country travel. Many hospitals have testing sites should you not be able to readily obtain a test upon entry to Canada.

Recommendation: All learners carefully consider the risks of international travel and take every precaution to protect themselves, their loved ones, and colleagues. It is the learner's responsibility to research the risk associated with the country to which they are travelling. This includes travel advisories/bans, entry requirements, current COVID-19 cases, vaccination rates and current public health measures in place to prevent COVID-19 infection and plan accordingly.

A reminder that this is an evolving situation, and that guidelines regarding travel and/or quarantine could change without advance notice either by the Government of Canada or any of our hospital partners. The entire University community is focused on maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment and preserving your educational experience.

Should you have any questions, please do reach out to the Postgraduate Medical Education office postgrad.med@utoronto.ca for assistance.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA HOUSTON MD, MEd, FRCPC

Acting Dean | Vice Dean, Medical Education | Interim Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education

Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine
Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

Get the most [recent updates](#) from the Temerty Faculty of Medicine on COVID19