

To: Residency Program Directors, Fellowship Program Directors, FM Site Directors  
Cc: Program Administrators, Department Chairs, Vice Chairs Education, PG Exec, PGME Staff

Dear PGME Community and Leaders,

The following message was sent from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada last Friday to provide an update to the evolving status of certification examinations. Communication was also sent to trainees last week.

Sincerely,

**MEREDITH GIULIANI** (She/Her/Hers) MBBS, MEd, PhD, FRCPC, DRCPSC

Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education  
Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology  
Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto



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**From:** "McLean, Laura" <[lmclean@royalcollege.ca](mailto:lmclean@royalcollege.ca)> on behalf of "Bandiera, Glen" <[gbandiera@royalcollege.ca](mailto:gbandiera@royalcollege.ca)>

**Date:** Friday, January 14, 2022 at 4:08 PM

**To:** "Undisclosed List/Liste.non.divulguée" <[undisclosedlist@royalcollege.ca](mailto:undisclosedlist@royalcollege.ca)>

**Subject:** IMPORTANT: Update on Spring 2022 Exams / IMPORTANT : Mise à jour sur les examens du printemps 2022

Dear colleagues / Chers collègues,

*Distribution: resident organizations (RDoC and FMRQ); postgraduate deans, deans, and senior deans; discipline-specific exam board executive and examiners; the Assessment, Examination and Credentials standing committees, specialty chairs and program directors. / Destinataires : Associations de résidents (MRC et FMRQ), vice-doyens aux études postdoctorales, doyens et doyens principaux, membres des comités d'examen des disciplines et examinateurs, comités permanents (Comité de l'agrément, Comité des examens et Comité des titres), présidents des comités de spécialité et directeurs de programme.*

The message below is a status update on the delivery of the spring exams, which will be shared with the spring 2022 exam candidates later today. / La mise à jour suivante porte sur les examens qui se tiendront au printemps

2022; les candidats aux examens la recevront plus tard dans la journée.

I encourage you to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns. / N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations.

Sincerely / Sincères salutations,

Glen

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*(Le français suit l'anglais.)*

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to provide an update regarding Royal College planning for the spring examination cycle. We recognize that all disciplines have been impacted by the pandemic, all in different ways, as have the different jurisdictions across the country.

I want to assure you that the Royal College has been closely monitoring the public health situation with the rise of the Omicron variant, and carefully assessing how best to deliver examinations in the current environment.

After careful consultation with Royal College leadership and exam boards, the **Royal College will proceed with the exams as scheduled**, while also changing some of the planned behind-the-scenes aspects of its delivery to provide as seamless an experience as possible for candidates.

The Royal College examination staff and boards have learned much about examination delivery in pandemic conditions and have developed successful partnerships with external vendors to confidently provide a reliable, secure and high-quality examination experience.

#### **Safe and secure delivery of spring 2022 exams**

The Royal College recognizes that examiner and candidate availability may be affected by pandemic demands in the foreseeable future. Knowing this and wishing to mitigate the spread of COVID through travel, the Royal College leadership has decided to deliver exams through a decentralized model (which was also in place last year).

To ensure exams can be delivered safely and securely, written and applied/oral exams will be delivered in 17 hotel sites across Canada. All candidates must present themselves at the exam centres to take their exams.

The Royal College has made extensive provisions to comply with local public health guidelines to ensure the safety of candidates, examiners and support staff. This includes:

- Providing individual hotel rooms in which candidates will take their exams
- Screening for symptoms at registration and attestation of vaccination
- Ensuring access to appropriate masks when needed by candidates

#### **Contingency options available**

- If a candidate has COVID or must self-isolate: Exams in most disciplines can be delivered remotely, albeit with the assumption of some added technical and procedural risks. Candidates can request to be converted to remote delivery if there is a need to isolate due to COVID, up to 24 hours before the start of an exam.
- If a candidate is experiencing stresses and challenges due to regional, specialty or personal factors, candidates may defer their exam to spring 2023 (see provisions below).

**NOTE:** Royal College certification will not be conferred until successful completion of the entire exam and all required training is complete.

#### **Deferrals and refunds**

- Candidates can withdraw up to the start of the exam with a full refund.
- Candidates will not exhaust an attempt in withdrawing from an exam.
- For those who choose to defer, please contact your [provincial regulatory authority](#) for information on how this impacts licensing.
- Candidates who wish to defer are asked to contact us at [candidates@royalcollege.ca](mailto:candidates@royalcollege.ca).

**Questions?** More information can be found in our [What to Expect on Exam Day FAQs](#). If you can't find your answer in our FAQs, please email us at: [candidates@royalcollege.ca](mailto:candidates@royalcollege.ca).

On behalf of the Royal College, I truly want to thank you for your hard work and dedication during this health care crisis.

Kind regards,

Glen Bandiera

**Glen Bandiera, MD, FRCPC, BSc (Engin.), MEd**

Executive Director, Specialty Education / Directeur exécutif du Bureau de l'éducation spécialisée

**Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada**

**774 Echo Drive, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1S 5N8**

**Collège royal des médecins et chirurgiens du Canada**

**774, promenade Echo, Ottawa (ON) Canada K1S 5N8**

