

Dear colleagues,

These are extraordinary times. We realize that the Royal College's decision to postpone the spring 2020 certification exams has created incredible stress for you and your peers. For that we apologize. You have all worked so hard to be ready and I have heard first-hand from many of you — and the organizations that represent you — that this decision has had an immense impact on your personal lives and professional careers.

The medical regulatory authorities have confirmed that the spring 2020 cohort of graduating residents must pass the pan-Canadian certification exams in order to be independently licensed to practise. Last week, we promised to find an alternative solution for the format of a fall exam, keeping your safety and future success in mind. To do so, our team has worked in close collaboration with our academic partners, the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada and the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada.

Today, I want to introduce our four-point plan to deliver the spring 2020 exams this fall, in response to the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in.

1. **Oral exams will not be required for the spring 2020 cohort.** Spring 2020 candidates will only be required to take a written exam (to be held in fall 2020) for specialty certification. The spring 2020 candidates will not need to complete the oral component of the comprehensive exam.

Written exam format (MCQ, SAQ) and length will be unchanged and continues to be based on the objectives of training of the discipline.

Before the exam (requirements):

- Signed re-affirmation from your program director that you have met the required competencies to attempt the written exam will be needed. This will be organized between the Royal College and Canadian universities for the spring 2020 candidates.
- If you are a repeat exam taker, international medical graduate or U.S. graduate, you will have to provide the necessary documentation for re-affirmation from an appropriate supervisor.

Write the written exam: You will then take a written exam. If you pass the written exam you will be immediately certified.

For those who fail the written exam: If you do not pass the written exam, you will not be eligible for certification this year and will need to apply again next year; however, you will not exhaust an attempt in sitting this exam. We have extended everyone who was exam eligible in spring 2020 an extra year of eligibility.

2. **We will inform you of the dates for the exams.** We have set a goal of September 2020 for the exam, and will be in a position to give you firm dates once we have confirmed the sites where these exams will be held. We commit to providing a minimum of 6 weeks' notice. We will be monitoring progress on COVID-19 and making the necessary logistical adjustments, if needed.

3. **Test sites will be expanded so you can take the exam closer to home.** We previously had 14 test sites across the country. Together with our academic and health partners, we are expanding the number of test sites to allow residents to take the exam as close to their homes or work places as possible. Test sites will adhere to ongoing physical distancing protocols. We will provide more information on test locations once we have confirmed them with our partners.
4. **Fees for the oral exam will be refunded.** We will reimburse your oral exam fee as quickly as possible. We will expedite these refunds to get the \$2,215 fee back to you within the next 60 days, which will be refunded to your credit card.

We are still evaluating the fall 2020 cohort exams and no decisions have been made as of yet.

The Royal College is committed to delivering your cohort's exam in the most responsible and safe way possible. Please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website for more details.

On behalf of the Royal College, I want to conclude by saying a sincere thank you for your patience as we navigate this new exam process together and for your work on the front lines of this health care crisis.

Please stay well,

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