



Dear colleagues,

Since our announcement in March regarding the postponement of the May 2020 Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) Part II and throughout the evolving pandemic, the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) has worked actively and closely with our exam site staff, as well as closely consulted with public health authorities, to explore scenarios to deliver our exams safely and in a timely way.

At the time of this message, we are ready and planning to safely administer our exams at as many of the planned sites as we are able to. We were advised this week that the Montreal and Kingston sites are unable to hold our exam.

Our Kingston and Montreal candidates have received a message through their physiciansapply.ca accounts. We understand the impact of cancellation decisions on candidates scheduled in this centre, especially those previously impacted by the postponed May 2020 exam dates, and we will keep them updated as decisions on future exam sessions are made. As soon as details are confirmed, the MCC will work directly with candidates and make every possible effort to transfer their exam application to a future session. We are also looking closely at the addition of dates in the first part of 2021 to address the backlog that could be created by cancellations.

We have worked to make the changes necessary to reduce the possible risks during the delivery of the MCCQE Part II with physical distancing and other personal protective measures in place at each examination centre, as per the guidelines set by local public health authorities. The environment will mimic that in an outpatient setting for seeing a patient. For example, not only are we following the two metres of physical distancing but all participants will also be wearing masks. We will be staggering the start of exam tracks (therefore the end of exam tracks) to keep any type of gathering to a minimum. On exam day, candidates must also fill out and provide a signed copy of a COVID-19 screening questionnaire. Candidates answering “yes” to any of the questions will not be admitted to the exam. In addition, site staff must complete orientation that reminds them to self-identify if they have any symptoms or have had any exposure.

You may be getting questions about the February 2021 session as well. The MCC made the decision to offer the February 2021 exam on one day only, for reasons relating to the number of test takers required for upcoming MCCQE Part II sessions to ensure that we are able to deliver a high-quality and psychometrically defensible exam in the face of COVID-19 challenges. Additionally, a number of candidates who were registered for the postponed May 2020 session have been transferred to the February 2021 session. As a result of the above, a reduced number of spots are available for the February 2021 session for new applicants, however, as noted, we are actively pursuing additional dates. Available spots are offered to candidates who added their name to the pre-application list and were randomly selected.

Family medicine residents who will be completing their training in June 2021 will have the opportunity to take the MCCQE Part II in May 2021, provided that they add their name to the list during the designated pre-application period for the May session. The May 2021 pre-application period is expected to open at the end of October 2020. To receive a notification once the pre-application period opens, we encourage candidates to add their email address to the notification list by clicking on Subscribe at the top right of the [MCCQE Part II](#) webpage.

For those concerned with exam conflicts with the College of Family Physicians of Canada in the Spring 2021 and the May 2021 MCCQE Part II session, please note that the exams will be held on different weekends.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director and CEO

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