



9312 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
P 301.581.9200 | F 301.571.4903  
www.cpme.org

Date: March 16, 2020

Authors: J.T. Marcoux, DPM; Residency Review Committee Chair  
Kieran Mahan, DPM; Council on Podiatric Medical Education Chair  
Heather Stagliano, DHSc, Director CPME; Nahla Wu; Associate Director CPME; Nancy Chouinard, Assistant Director CPME

Subject: CPME Guidance on COVID-19 for Residency and Fellowship Education

*Note: This document will be updated as new information becomes available.*

CPME continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak and guidance/updates issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and other sources. Most importantly, CPME wants to ensure that the health and safety of our students, residents, fellows, faculty, staff, and patients is at the forefront of any decision made. CPME understands that each institution will be facing unique challenges influenced by individual school, clinical, or hospital policies; local, state, and federal regulations; and local public health agencies' recommendations. If a local outbreak occurs, local public health decisions must be followed, and schools and institutions will be obligated to follow the directives of the local authorities. CPME encourages you to think about how you might modify practices at your institution within the context of the current situation and to also consider potential issues that may arise as the virus spreads.

As alternatives to educational delivery are considered, it is important to be mindful of potential consequences for students/residents/fellows in terms of finances, degree completion, certification, and licensure eligibility.

**Residency/Fellowship Education:** Residency and fellowship sites must follow their institution's directives and make decisions that are best for their trainees. CPME expects sponsoring institutions to provide residents and fellows with adequate training resources regarding the use of personal protective equipment and infection control protocols. Until better epidemiologic data are available, resident/fellow direct contact of known or suspected cases of COVID-19 infection should be avoided if possible, however any trainee who may provide care to patients with suspected cases of COVID-19 must do so under appropriate supervision. Residents'/fellows' time away from required rotations, or the program, may affect their ability to complete a residency program on schedule. If a residency director anticipates issues with residents meeting their MAVs or completing required rotations within 36-months of training due to circumstances at their institution, please inform CPME so that we may monitor these and any other issues with the impact of COVID-19. We will be designing a reporting mechanism for the Residency Review Committee and Council to understand the measures programs took in the face of the virus. **RRC will be looking at these issues/programs on a case by case basis.** CPME will continue to provide updates as they become available.



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**Student Externship Education:** CPME acknowledges that flexibility with clinical rotations may be necessary to ensure the safety of students. This may include the need to temporarily suspend clinical rotations. Program directors should follow the direction of individual college policies and/or their own institutional policies related to the continuation of student externship rotations with your program. CPME advises that in the interest of student safety, student direct contact of known or suspected cases of COVID-19 infection be avoided until better epidemiologic data are available.

We encourage everyone to receive and review required training and refreshers on proactive measures, like hygiene practices and appropriate use of personal protective equipment, to ensure that everyone has accurate, current information on COVID-19 epidemiology.