

March 18, 2020

Dear Residency Program Director,

To protect vulnerable populations from the COVID-19 pandemic, many U.S. colleges and universities have closed their campuses to minimize transmission of the virus. Many have begun converting their traditional, face-to-face lecture-based courses to virtual courses. Similarly, many hospitals and clinics have curtailed or converted non-essential activities, including education activities. These changes may impact the timely completion of educational milestones of graduate students seeking admission to residency programs as well as matriculated residents. The purpose of this letter is to provide residency program directors with specific contextual information and recommendations of relevance to residency programs. This is supplemental to general guidance from the federal, state and local governments, and your institution.

For incoming residents who are currently enrolled in MS, PhD, Post Doctoral Certificate and DMP programs, their completion dates may be impacted. Example causes of delay include reduced access to laboratory-based research infrastructure, difficulty scheduling defenses of theses and dissertations, and cancellation of required laboratory-based courses. Although some universities allow dissertation defenses to take place by video conference, it has come to our attention that a number of students enrolled in the MedPhys Match may experience delays in their degree completion due to circumstances beyond their control. These delays may affect your incoming resident's ability to begin your program on time.

In view of these extenuating circumstances, and the impending deadline (Friday, March 20th) for students and residency programs to submit their rank list, we encourage you to:

- Review CAMPEP's residency standards (<http://www.campep.org/ResidencyStandards.pdf>), namely standards 3.1 and 3.2. CAMPEP does allow some flexibility when complying with residency standards, especially given these exceptional circumstances.
- Review your institutional policies regarding admissions of residents and develop a plan of action to accommodate delays caused by the pandemic.
- The MedPhys Match agreement states programs must "Provide complete and accurate information to applicants prior to the Rank Order List deadline concerning the position(s) available through the MedPhys Match, including all institution, residency and program policies related to eligibility requirements for appointment." Please reach out to residency candidates you have interviewed and inform them of the current conditions to begin employment at your institution, especially as they pertain to deferments of start dates caused by delays in completing their current programs, travel restrictions, quarantines, etc., remind them that start dates and employment conditions may change due to circumstances outside your control.

For current residents, this pandemic may introduce delays in the completion of specific rotations or the completion of residency training program. We would encourage you to:

- Review and discuss the institutional policy for sick leave with your current residents.
- Review and discuss the institutional policy for remediation with your current residents. Details should be contained in section 8.3 of your CAMPEP self-study.

- Review your institutional policies, and develop a plan of action for continuity of training, which may include an extension of the nominal residency training period.
- Remind residents that these are uncertain times, and employment conditions may change due to circumstances outside our control.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

SDAMPP, CAMPEP, AAPM Education Council