



Policies and Procedures

Subject: COVID-19 – Waiver of Training	
Created: Feb 2022	Revised: July 2023
Reviewed and approved by the Residency Program Committee: Sept 2023	Next review date: Sept 2026

This policy only applies to family medicine residents who began the Dalhousie Family Medicine Residency Program on or before July 1, 2022.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic it is recognized that residents may be absent from clinical learning experiences for reasons related to COVID (i.e. COVID related illness, requirement to self-isolate). In some instances residents may be able to continue with their training through virtual care (see Virtual Care During Family Medicine Clinical Experiences Policy) or use of CME time.

Residents who are unable to participate in Family Medicine Residency training for reasons related to COVID may request a waiver of training of a maximum of 4 weeks. The resident will submit the request in writing to the Site Director for discussion at the next Residency Program Committee Executive (RPC Exec) meeting.

The RPC Executive will consider the following in it’s decision to grant a waiver of training:

1. Academic progress has been satisfactory throughout the program
2. No formal remediation required
3. No major professionalism breaches on record
4. Has achieved the program’s competency requirements
5. There are no concerns about the ability to provide safe and effective patient care
6. The learning experiences affected by the additional time lost are considered to be minor in nature, such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Electives
 - b. Focused research/project time
 - c. A clinical learning experience that is NOT the only exposure to that domain of care
 - d. A clinical learning experience that reinforces competences already gained

If approved by the RPC Executive, requests for waiver of training will be granted for residents in the last 6 months of residency. Residents who are not in their last 6 months of training may be granted a conditional waiver based on maintaining their status as a resident in good standing. A conditional waiver may be removed based on considerations 1-5 (listed above) or at the discretion of the RPC Executive.

The minimum time spent in the program will be no less than 24 months including the waiver of training