

## PGME Shared Accommodation Guidance December 14, 2021

### *Guidance for mandatory rotations and shared accommodations*

As this fourth wave continues in Ontario, the guidelines for accommodations have been updated.

The guidelines and principles for accessing shared accommodations have been reviewed with KFLA Public Health, the Regional Education Office, and the Department of Family Medicine.

The risk of sharing accommodations has been deemed to be low given that trainees who are working and being placed in regional accommodations have complied with Queen's University and Kingston Health Sciences Centre's COVID 19 Vaccination policies and all trainees are using PPE in all work environments.

- All trainees are advised to get their third COVID vaccination as soon as they are eligible/168 days after their second shot.
- Any trainee can move into shared accommodations provided they have not been identified as a close contact of positive case, have COVID symptoms, or are waiting on test results. Trainees should ensure they are actively screening themselves before moving in and during their stay in shared accommodations.
- Trainees on **ELECTIVES** have always organized their own accommodations and are encouraged to follow these guidelines in setting up their accommodations.

### **Principles for Scheduling of Shared Accommodations**

- The goal is to ensure that trainees have access to housing that is safe and supports their continued participation in mandatory rotations.
- If identified as a close contact or that possible exposure has occurred, follow the local public health guidance on next steps.
- If sharing accommodations, the person undergoing testing should wear a mask at all times and self-isolate to the greatest extent possible.
  - If a trainee tests positive, alternate housing will be arranged in the least disruptive way possible for all in the shared accommodations, in consultation with the local public health unit.
  - This may include moving to alternate regional education or family medicine housing, to a hotel, other rental unit (e.g., Air BNB), or going to one's own home. Decisions will be made in consultation and under the direction of the local public health unit.

- Financial support will be provided by the PGME Office if alternate/ emergency housing is required and cannot be organized through Regional Education or the Department of Family Medicine. Please contact [jordan.sinnett@queensu.ca](mailto:jordan.sinnett@queensu.ca).
- Enhanced cleaning of the shared living space may be organized in consultation with the trainee(s) who remains in the shared accommodations and taking into consideration the advice of the local public health unit.
- Every effort will be made to reduce the number of people required to be in a shared accommodation:
  - Shared accommodations will be minimized where feasible;
  - To the greatest extent possible, trainees working on the same service will not be scheduled to be in the same accommodations;
  - When sharing a bathroom: space out use by 10 to 15 minutes, open a window, and wipe down surfaces with sanitizer prior to leaving;
  - Do not eat together, and clean kitchen area (your dishes, surfaces, etc.) right away.