March 17, 2020

The American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG) is closely monitoring the advisory information regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as federal and local public health authorities. We will continue to follow their guidance as the number of cases increase in the coming weeks. The health and well-being of our trainees, diplomates, staff, and the public are our primary concern.

Potential Absences from Training:
Residents and fellows may be impacted by mandated quarantines because of Covid-19 exposure or infection. To address concerns about how these unexpected absences may impact eligibility for certification, the ABMGG has developed the following guidelines for trainees:

Time spent in mandated quarantine can count as clinical training, as long as the program director defines continued learning and training activities that can be accomplished and documented. Actual time spent and a description of the activities should be documented.

Extended absences for trainees who contract COVID-19 infection will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Documentation of COVID-19 infection from a treating physician will be required for consideration. The program director must attest that the overall competency of the trainee at the completion of training was not adversely affected by the absence. However, any required rotation experiences missed may require extension of training.

In either circumstance mentioned above, the ABMGG expects that the Program Director will proactively and quickly inform the ABMGG about the situation.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on trainee education. We do not want to add an undue burden to any affected individuals, rather we hope to make reasonable accommodations in our requirements to mitigate any consequences.

For up-to-date information and recommendations about COVID-19, we refer you to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at cdc.gov.

Please contact us at abmgg@abmgg.org with any questions.