



CAHIIM Response and Updates to COVID-19 – Professional Practice Experience (PPE)

CAHIIM-Accredited programs must always default to institutional policy in regard to actions to be taken for faculty and students.

Changes that programs undergo under these types of situations (earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, or illnesses that threaten/risk the health and safety of staff, students or faculty) are the only considerations for “exceptions” as they are not under the control of the program or the institution. Therefore, there are short term coping strategies that should not lead to permanent changes that may affect your compliance with the Accreditation Standards thus leading to a substantive change that needs to be reported or requiring prior approval from CAHIIM. However, CAHIIM will be reaching out to accredited programs to gather information about best practices during this time to share with all academic programs. Further, CAHIIM is requesting programs to develop and maintain a transparent communication plan for all of your students so they understand the impact.

While we understand that some professional practice experiences will not continue as originally planned, there is at this time, no blanket waiver of the expectations related to the Professional Practice Experience (PPE). Students will still be required to complete a PPE. We expect programs to work with students and practice sites to ensure conditions outlined in Standard 23 are met. However, CAHIIM understands that PPE sites may not host students during periods of high risk. Therefore, we encourage academic programs to be innovative. Some suggestions include, but are not limited to:

- Students may be placed on virtual PPE experiences; and/or,*
- Students may complete virtual PPE projects, either created by the PPE site and monitored/assessed by program faculty, or created by the program faculty and monitored/assessed by the PPE site.*

This approach has been endorsed by the CAHIIM Executive Committee.