

Dear Boucher Community members,

This is a very challenging time for us all and we ask that our community hold each other with respect, patience and compassion as we navigate an unprecedented situation.

The BINM Critical Incident Response (CIR) Team met today to actively monitor the Covid-19 situation in BC and globally, and update our pandemic plan accordingly. As always, the health and safety of BINM staff, faculty, students and patients is our priority.

Most other CNME-accredited schools are anticipating remaining closed and providing remote learning until mid-May and this may be the outcome for BINM as well. Based on the best current information the CIR Team has determined that **the campus and clinic will definitely remain closed until at least the Easter long weekend**. We will continue to provide remote learning, assess the situation and provide updates as new information becomes available.

Administration including Academics and Student Services continue to operate remotely. Students may contact the school by email as required.

Please keep in mind that the following is all subject to change based on the best information available in this constantly evolving and rapidly changing environment.

Students are requested to send any comments or concerns through their class and/or clinic rep. We need to streamline communication during this time as we focus our efforts on the best solutions for our school.

Academics:

Over the past week the academic team has been planning for best case and worst case scenarios. All decisions are made with the safety of our community in mind.

The current updated plan for the academic program is;

1. No exams will be held on campus until further notice.
2. No practical classes or exams will be held until on campus until at least after the Easter long weekend.
3. Exams that can be delivered remotely will be. We are exploring multiple options for remote delivery. Students should plan to have remote written exams scheduled during the week of Mar 30-Apr 3. A schedule of exact days and times will be sent out by early next week.
4. Over the coming weeks the academic team will be devising a schedule that plans for continued campus closure as indicated above.

Clinic:

The clinic remains closed at this time. There is a skeleton crew working to ensure that patients can pick up refills this week only with extreme precautions in place for these transactions. Many thanks to Brenda, Alma, Kaylee and Dr. Fairman-Young for their dedication to providing patient care services during the shutdown.

Dr. Fairman-Young is investigating the option for telemedicine and we are hoping to have an update shortly about this option. In addition, the Clinic Curriculum Committee is assessing ways to evaluate clinical competence through remote teaching such as case based learning.

Students should direct questions or concerns (other than confidential concerns) through their Clinic Rep to Dr. Fairman-Young.

Student Services

Student Services will still be operational remotely including full access to counselling services. Students, please contact your counsellor to arrange remote counselling sessions.

Prospective students who have scheduled campus tours, personal visits, or class visits will be rescheduled. Prospective students who have booked in-person interviews will be asked to interview remotely for the foreseeable future.

Student events are cancelled until further notice.

Staff

Staff members should continue to work remotely with direction from their Supervisor, and be accessible for emails and meetings etc.

Travel

BINM community members, including students, should avoid all non-essential travel. It is disappointing to have to cancel travel plans however it is the prudent and socially responsible thing to do.

Students or employees returning from **any travel** should self-isolate for 14 days on their return.

If you are planning to travel in the coming weeks and months, please check the Government of Canada Travel Advice website (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) to make informed decisions.

We appreciate your cooperation as we continue to monitor the situation. We believe it is everyone's responsibility to self-isolate as necessary as an important measure in slowing the spread of this novel virus.

Sincerely,

BINM Critical Incident Response Team