

February 2, 2021

Dear colleagues,

For the health and safety of candidates and examiners related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) is **delaying the delivery of the special, virtual simulated office oral (SOO) exam component until fall 2021—tentatively in early October**. This special SOO is meant only for those who have failed the SOO examination component in the past.

The original plan was to use regional hotels as examination sites to deliver the virtual SOO, but we cannot, in good conscience, ask physicians to leave their practices and patients to travel to a local hotel this spring, given what we currently know about the pandemic and the measures various jurisdictions have needed to implement to contain the spread of COVID-19. Your safety and that of your families, loved ones, and patients are of paramount concern.

Delaying the special SOO exam component until fall 2021 has some benefits: The health impact of new virus strains will be better understood; current community responses to escalating infection rates may be eased; more widespread vaccine administration is very likely; and the CFPC will have time to seek an examination-delivery vendor who may offer other options for delivering this special examination, possibly in your own home.

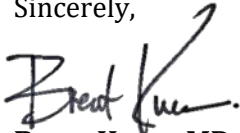
We will continue to share details with you about the administration of this special SOO examination component as they become available.

For those who **registered only for the 2021 SOO examination component**, your registration will automatically be transferred to this new date. If you wish to withdraw, please notify us via [cfpexam@cfpc.ca](mailto:cfpexam@cfpc.ca) as soon as possible and we will issue you a full refund.

For those who **registered for both the short-answer management problem (SAMP) written and SOO components**, we will be contacting you within the next 14 calendar days to determine how you wish to proceed.

We know this pandemic has been difficult for so many. Our lives have been upended, we've lost loved ones, and it feels like so much is on hold. We know how eager you are to complete this chapter in your professional journey and we thank you for your patience. Your safety and well-being are at the heart of this decision and we will continue to correspond with you as we get closer to October. We're in this together and we'll get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Kvern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

**Brent Kvern MD, CCFP, FCFP**

Director, Certification and Examinations