

## **West Virginia University School of Public Health Graduate Medical Education Policy on Disasters (IR IV.M, IV.M1)**

In the event of a disaster or the declaration of extraordinary circumstances by the ACGME (i.e. abrupt hospital closing, manmade disasters, catastrophic loss of funding, etc.) impacting the graduate medical education programs sponsored by the West Virginia University School of Public Health, the GMEC establishes this policy to protect the well-being, safety, and educational experience of residents enrolled in our training programs.

In the event of a disaster/extraordinary circumstances, the GMEC, working with the DIO and other sponsoring institution leadership, will strive to restructure or reconstitute the educational experience as quickly as possible. Following a disaster that disrupts training programs, salary and benefits will be continued in accordance with West Virginia state policy.

Once the DIO and GMEC determine that the sponsoring institution can no longer provide an adequate educational experience for its residents, the sponsoring institution will to the best of its ability arrange for the **temporary transfer** of the residents to programs at other sponsoring institutions until such time as West Virginia University School of Public Health is able to resume providing the experience. Residents who transfer to other programs as a result of a disaster will be provided by their Program Directors with an estimated time that relocation to another program will be necessary. Should that initial time estimate need to be extended, the resident will be notified by their Program Directors using written or electronic means identifying the estimated time of the extension.

If the disaster/extraordinary circumstances prevents the sponsoring institution from re-establishing an adequate educational experience within a reasonable amount of time, then **permanent transfers** will be arranged.

The DIO will be the primary institutional contact with the ACGME and the Institutional Review Committee Executive Director regarding disaster plan implementation and needs within the sponsoring institution.

In the event of a disaster/extraordinary circumstances affecting other sponsoring institutions of graduate medical education programs, the program leadership at West Virginia University School of Public Health will work collaboratively with the DIO the ability to accept transfer residents from other institutions. This will include the process to request complement increases with the ACGME that may be required to accept additional residents for training. Programs currently under a proposed or actual adverse accreditation decision by the ACGME will not be eligible to participate in accepting transfer residents.

The program will be responsible for protecting the academic and personnel files of all residents from loss or destruction by disaster.

Approved by GMEC February 5, 2016  
Revised and Approved by GMEC July 17, 2018