

2T1 Town Hall – Questions from the live chat – April 2020

Block 1/Block 2/Lottery

If we currently have NDPC rotations scheduled for block 1 and 2, when should we expect OEE to contact us to confirm if we will be able to go ahead with them?

- The OEE will be in touch this week with details and confirmations.

For those of us who had required community/hospital block 1/2 what is happening? Can we do block 2 DPC online? Will we lose our later blocks and have to re-match?

- It is unlikely that we will have virtual DPC rotations available by block 2. If you had DPC rotations in block, 1 and/or 2, they will be cancelled. You will have DPC rotations later in your schedule to meet the requirements for graduation, however it is not yet decided how the assignment will be done as this depends on the number of rotations available. The OEE will communicate these details once finalized.

Can we find our own NDPC? Given the fact that some of us may not get a block 1 rotation?

- The Faculty is currently reaching out to find block 1 rotations. If you have an idea in mind please reach out to discuss with the OEE before contacting preceptors directly on your own.

Will the rescheduled DPC rotations in block 1 be rescheduled during our current study blocks if the preceptor agrees to this arrangement? In addition, will there be overlap of students allowed?

- DPC rotations from block 1 will be cancelled and students will have a new DPC later in their schedule. It is not likely possible to just reassign to a future block as availability of our preceptors and sites has changed a lot. The OEE will work with students to revise schedules. It is possible that some preceptors will have more than one student.

Will OEE be contacting us individually? Do we have any input in the rescheduling?

- The OEE is working on the details and will send out communication this week. We will facilitate as much student input as is feasible within the context of the current pandemic situation.

How can you guarantee that there will be enough institutional placements to reschedule those in block 1-2?

- We are working to increase the capacity of rotations to ensure students get all of the required rotations. We cannot confirm rotation numbers as we are still confirming availability.

Specific Planning/Timelines

What are our next actionable steps? How will we determine our new schedule?

- The OEE is working on the details of the next step and we will communicate those in the next week or two.

Can we please get definitive answers for block 1 as soon as possible since some of us have to decide whether to work in May or not? Some of us planned to work based on the info that block 1 was going to be a study block.

- We will get this information to you this week as we are finalizing the details.

Can we decline block 2 NDPC if we already have 10 weeks of NDPC later in the year, or will we be forced to drop one of the ones we have?

- Students will have the opportunity to select a rotation for block 1 or 2, and can opt to select a study block in block 1 or block 2. Students will be allowed 10 weeks of NDPC as per the usual requirements.

It was mentioned that later NDPC blocks would likely be cancelled. Can we have a choice of selecting to keep our later NDPC instead of one with the Faculty?

- We encourage students to do NDPC blocks early; we may need those later blocks to fulfill DPC requirements. We understand that students may be disappointed to have to change NDPC rotations, however we are trying to facilitate graduation by June 2021 hence we need to keep students moving even with a pause on clinical rotations. The best way to do that is to do NDPC rotations early.

If I have my required institutional rotations in blocks 1 and 2, how will the rescheduling happen if I don't have two consecutive study blocks? Alternatively, will the required institutional rotation no longer need to be 10 consecutive weeks?

- These details are still being worked out as we expect that your schedule may look different as the situation evolves.

Is it an option to break up the required institutional and community into 5 weeks instead?

- We will be exploring all possibilities. No decisions on if this is possible have been made as of yet.

Is there an option to change a selective rotation (community or hospital rotation) and put it towards our required community or hospital hours if those are lost in blocks 1/2?

- The OEE will work with students to ensure that all requirements are met. The exact details are still being finalized. We do not know the status of future rotations hence the OEE is confirming availabilities.

Is it unreasonable to continue later NDPC rotations as scheduled in addition to completing the virtual NDPC rotation? If a student does not want to give up a specific opportunity and there is no conflict, is there a reason we can't complete it as scheduled? For example, in lieu of a study block we would complete the scheduled NDPC block.

- We are pursuing numerous options and this will need to be reviewed by the OEE.

Virtual APPE Rotations

How can the Faculty equate a virtual rotation to the same standards as direct patient care?

- When we talk about virtual direct patient care rotations, we are talking about providing real time care to patients via virtual platforms. Virtual care is common in many areas of medicine and has been for many years, particularly in remote communities. The rotations will not be virtual simulated patients, but actual patients. This is how many other health faculties will be providing care in the near future as well.

How will virtual rotations be set up? In other words, is it expected that we will be doing online work 8 hrs per day? Just wondering how the schedule would be organized for people that may want to be working part-time as well.

- The schedule will look like a regular workday – as it will be providing care in real time through virtual platforms. There are a number of pharmacists who provide care via virtual networks and work a standard 8-hour day.

Preceptors

If we have a NDPC rotation in another block other than block 1 and 2, can those preceptors be contacted to see if they are willing to move it to block 1 or 2?

- The OEE will be trying to move later NDPC rotations forward if feasible. This is dependent on the availability of the site or preceptor to accommodate these changes.

Will more community DPC preceptors be contacted with the option of taking on students for the required community 10-week rotation?

We will increase capacity for rotations as needed.

Is the OEE office already contacting hospitals to potentially move up a hospital-NDPC rotation originally scheduled in a later block-to-block 1/2 as virtual NDPC? If not, can we contact the preceptor on our own?

- Yes, the OEE is working on this and we hope to finalize by the end of this week. Please do not contact preceptors directly on your own. Some hospitals may be able to provide NDPC earlier; however, some have informed us they are not able to do NDPC rotations at this time.

Finances

Will students who applied for OSAP still be able to receive the May installment?

- Students who were assessed as eligible for OSAP for the summer session will receive their funding. The Registrar's office has provided details related to OSAP. Questions about this should be directed to brenda.thrush@utoronto.ca.

General

For those students who continue to work in hospital and community, is there any way that can count towards a DPC experience?

- Unfortunately, this is not possible at this time. There are significant differences associated with being a learner vs. an employee. Although you learn valuable skills working in pharmacy environments it is not the same as being their for purely educational purposes.

For students who did not get hospital placements last year for EPE 2, will their hospital placement priority still be upheld during this schedule shuffling?

- We will do our best to honor this however there is no guarantee as this is dependent on the capacity at hospitals to accommodate learners

Graduation/Accommodations

Are there going to be accommodations? It would be unfair for some to graduate and others not based on the random schedule we received from the lottery.

- It has not been confirmed that there will only be a lottery. The OEE will outline the process clearly. Our goal is for your entire class to graduate in June 2021 as scheduled. We will need to revise schedules and be sure that all students are assigned all required rotations over the coming year.

International Rotations

Is it safe to assume that all international rotations, regardless of their blocks, are now cancelled?

- International rotations are currently paused due to travel restrictions. The OEE will provide updates if this changes.

Is there any concrete plan to redistribute rotations for students who have international rotations cancelled?

- International rotations are paused for now. More information on this will be made available as we receive it.

Communication with Students

When can we expect some answers?

- We are working to provide details as quickly as we can. We will be developing a communications plan for your class in collaboration with your class council.

Is there any way we can communicate more collaboratively as a class with the Faculty? I think a lot of us would appreciate more real-time updates, even if it's not concrete. Especially as a lot of us are paying rent to be here, and working in hospital and community still (which is scheduled in advance).

- Dr. Kellar and Kate Richards will work with the class council to create a communication plan that will meet the class needs, as well as those of the Faculty.