



# American Board of Emergency Medicine

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## An Open Letter to Emergency Medicine Residents RE: COVID, Quarantine, and ABEM Eligibility

Dear Physician:

The practice of Emergency Medicine has become more perilous during the COVID-19 pandemic, and you are on the frontlines of providing care to our families, friends, and patients. Please know that ABEM stands with you—each and every member of the ABEM Board of Directors is clinically active, working in emergency departments across the country.

At ABEM, we understand that Board Certification is important to you and your career. We understand that required quarantine can threaten the ability to meet the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) training requirements. Quarantine can also create challenges to becoming ABEM board eligible.

To address these challenges, the ABEM Board of Directors has made a temporary policy change to protect your board eligibility status during this uncertain time. **Effective immediately, ABEM will accommodate any two-week quarantine period without negatively affecting your Board Eligibility.** As currently written, you are required to complete at least 46 weeks of training for each level of training. For this academic year, ABEM will reduce this requirement to 44 weeks in order to accommodate a two-week quarantine period.

It is important for you to know that ABEM does not define what constitutes those 44-weeks; your program directors and the ACGME defines these requirements. Moreover, ABEM does not define, police, or regulate “clinical hours” or other forms of educational activity. In fact, ABEM strongly supports asynchronous learning as part of training during any time at which you might be quarantined.

If, for any reason, you are in a situation where ABEM policy does not accommodate your individual circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, please have your program director contact ABEM. ABEM will continue to reassess its policies as the COVID-19 pandemic demands.

### In summary:

- Effective immediately, ABEM has reduced the minimum training requirements in order to accommodate any two-week quarantine period without negatively affecting your board eligibility.
- This temporary ABEM policy should accommodate most quarantine situations without extending training.
- ABEM strongly supports the use of asynchronous learning during periods of quarantine.
- In cases that are not covered by the revised policy, please have your program director contact ABEM.
- ABEM will reassess this policy as needed.

Thank you all for what you are doing for our specialty and the public. You are bringing tremendous honor to our specialty.

Sincerely,

Jill M. Baren, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.

President, American Board of Emergency Medicine