

Covid-19 policy for MRCP(UK) examiners and candidates

As an organisation for healthcare professionals, the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK is committed to supporting global efforts to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus disease, Covid-19.

We are aware that examiners and candidates who work in a range of healthcare settings travel across the world to participate in MRCP(UK) examinations. In view of this we are applying the guidance compiled by [Public Health England](#) to cover healthcare workers in the UK who have travelled to affected countries and to all examiners and candidates participating in the examinations irrespective of where they are based.

Candidates sitting examinations should also remember the guidance provided in the [MRCP\(UK\) regulations](#) that they should: *“Be feeling well enough to undertake the examination. It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure that they are physically and mentally fit to sit the examination. Should a candidate feel unwell prior to the start of the examination, they should inform an invigilator and consider withdrawing from the examination. Candidates are reminded to be aware of their responsibilities as doctors to take into account any risks that their own health may pose to others, such as candidates and patients.”*

In view of the current exceptional circumstances, the following rules will be applied:

- Candidates and examiners will be asked to sign a declaration form at their examination centre confirming that:
 1. They have not travelled to, from or through any category 1 country or area (as listed on the Public Health England website) within the last 14 days; and that they do not currently have any symptoms of Covid-19 which include cough, fever, shortness of breath – this is not an exhaustive list and you should declare any other relevant symptoms;
 2. They have not been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in any country within the last 14 days, nor have they been responsible for the treatment of affected or suspected Covid-19 patients without wearing full PPE to UK standard without breach;
 3. They have not been exposed to a healthcare setting (e.g. working in healthcare, admission to or a visit to a hospital or clinic – this is not an exhaustive list) in any category 2 country or area (as listed on the Public Health England website) within the last 14 days;
 4. They have not travelled to, from or through a specified category 2 country or area (as listed on the Public Health England website) within the last 14 days - if the answer is yes then they must confirm that they currently have no symptoms of Covid-19 and have not been in contact, within the last 14 days, with a confirmed case.
- Additional risk assessment measures may be in place at clinical centres and decisions will be made on the day about whether candidates will be allowed to sit the examination or whether the examination is going ahead.
- Candidates/examiners will be asked to not shake hands with each other or with patients and there will be increased use of hand sanitizers in accordance with guidance.

- Candidates and examiners who are travelling from affected areas to participate in examinations in areas or countries which are currently not affected should consider whether it is still appropriate to travel.
- Candidates and examiners based in affected countries who are travelling within those countries and to other countries to participate in examinations should refer to local guidance and regulations before travelling.

The Federation appreciates the inconvenience this may cause for candidates and examiners, but we are sure that you appreciate the reasons for putting these measures into place.

Candidates who are unable to travel or to sit the examination due to Covid-19 restrictions and measures, can apply for a refund of their examination fees. Travel expenses incurred by candidates will not be reimbursed. Candidates who do not attend for reasons unrelated to the Public Health England guidance will not automatically be entitled to a refund but can apply, with applications being considered on a case by case basis.

MRCP(UK) Examinations: Candidate and examiner Covid-19 declaration form

Due to the current situation involving Covid-19, all those participating in MRCP(UK) examinations are required to sign this declaration form. This is designed to protect all of those involved in examinations. [For more information, please see the Public Health England website.](#)

Candidates who do not sign the form will not be permitted to sit the examination.

Please read the statement and speak to an invigilator if you are unable to confirm any of the points below.

"I confirm that:

1. I have not travelled to, from or through any category 1 country or area (as listed on the Public Health England website) within the last 14 days; nor in the last 14 days have I had any symptoms of Covid-19 which include cough, fever, shortness of breath – this is not an exhaustive list;
2. I have not been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in any country within the last 14 days, nor have I been responsible for the treatment of affected or suspected Covid-19 patients without wearing full PPE to UK standard without breach;
3. I have not been exposed to a healthcare setting (e.g. working in healthcare, admission to or a visit to a hospital or clinic – this is not an exhaustive list) in any category 2 country or area (as listed on the Public Health England website) within the last 14 days;
4. I have not travelled to, from or through a specified category 2 country or area (as listed on the Public Health England website) within the last 14 days - if the answer is yes then I can reconfirm that I currently have no symptoms and have not been in contact with a confirmed Covid-19 case.

I understand that I will be subject to misconduct proceedings if I knowingly provide inaccurate information.

Signed:

Print Name:

Candidate/Examiner Number:

Date:

Guidance for exam hosts/chairs

- If a candidate/examiner answers "yes" to questions 1, 2 or 3 they cannot participate in the exam and candidates may be eligible for a refund of the exam fee.
- If a candidate/examiner answers "yes" to question 4 they must also confirm that they are currently symptom free.

Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

This form will be returned to MRCP(UK) and stored in accordance with the data protection policy.