



College of  
**TRADITIONAL  
CHINESE MEDICINE  
PRACTITIONERS +  
ACUPUNCTURISTS**  
of British Columbia

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900-200 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 1S4  
ctcma.bc.ca

T (604) 742-6563  
Toll Free 1-855-742-6563  
F (604) 357-1963  
E info@ctcma.bc.ca

## **URGENT & IMPORTANT**

July 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL to all TCM schools

Dear TCM Principals/Administrators

### **Re: Extension of Temporary Policy on Online Classroom Instruction**

I am writing to follow up our communications with you on March 14 and April 22, 2020 regarding the temporary policy and guideline on classroom instruction in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the directive from the Ministry of Health on “social distancing”.

The temporary policy and guideline, which will expire on August 31, 2020, allow a recognized TCM training program in Schedule H to include components of instruction offered through distance learning partially in a course or fully in a course, when the school can provide evidence that the distance learning components adhere to the same standard and assessment as for the same regular in-classroom course(s).

The Education and Examination Committee recently convened to assess the continuous impact of the global pandemic situation with reference to the newly updated PTIB policy the administrative schedules of TCM schools in Schedule H and **approved to extend the following temporary policy and guideline to December 31, 2020.**

### **Temporary Policy (Updated July 20, 2020)**

TCM schools in Schedule H have discretion how to respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as individual institutions. The College approves online classroom instruction during this extraordinary time so that schools can have one more option for their response to this health situation.

Current approved courses in a Schedule H TCM recognized program can include using online virtual classroom technology for course material delivery with the sole intention of avoiding crowd gathering purpose *on a temporary basis*. The guideline is **effective immediately to December 31, 2020 (Updated 2020-07-20).**

### **Policy Guideline**

1. The TCM schools in Schedule H have discretion how to respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. It is their responsibility to decide how to meet the students' learning need for quality instruction during this extraordinary time.
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2. The courses must follow all guidelines from the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB) for online course instruction to ensure the change in delivery format does not affect instruction quality, course content, and learning outcomes. There might be requirements to log student's attendance and participation during the online instruction for school administration purpose.
3. The courses must be taught by the same instructors (or instructors with the same qualifications), using the same course reference materials, following the same course outlines with the same learning outcomes as in the approved curriculum previously reviewed and approved by the Education Program Review team. This change only involves using an online technology to substitute in-person classroom instruction to deliver the course materials. The scheduled time, course content and course duration should not be changed.
4. When the public health risk associated with the virus deems to be "low" in Canada by Public Health authority and there is no public health directive to close a specific school or to lockdown all schools / educational institutions, schools can consider to offer courses by online delivery method for students who cannot attend classes in person due to self-isolation. When there is any school(s) closure by the Public Health authority, the school(s) can consider offering courses solely by online delivery method due to students not able to attend in person in the classrooms. Offering online instruction is an option and each school will make its own decision for its arrangement for currently running classes, which might include postponement and/or cancellation of classes.
5. This guideline is only for didactic courses. When clinical portions of the programs will need to be re-scheduled or cancelled, schools should try to offer the clinical courses at a later appropriate time as soon as possible. Virtual delivery of clinical training is **NOT** permitted.

Sincerely,

The Education and Examination Committee  
College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners & Acupuncturists of BC