



LETTER TO POTENTIAL FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM APPLICANTS AUGUST 5, 2020

RE: 2020-2021 RESIDENCY INTERVIEW PROCESS

The global COVID-19 pandemic will provide unique challenges to both applicants and residency programs in the process of residency selection.

The *Coalition for Physician Accountability's Work Group on Medical Students in the Class of 2021 Moving Across Institutions for Post Graduate Training (The Coalition)* has made recommendations to assist students and programs in navigating this challenging time.

The academic family medicine community supports The *Coalition's* recommendations with additions applicable to family medicine. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residency/article/specialty-response-covid-19/>

In addition to the statements contained in the letter linked above, we (the undersigned) encourage students to utilize the Apply Smart data, available on the AAMC website, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residency/apply-smart-residency/> for guidance related to the total number of programs to apply to. Using applicant and matching data, Apply Smart findings include estimates for U.S. allopathic and osteopathic students as well as international students. Additionally, students are encouraged to seek the council of faculty advisors and current residents as they consider which programs to apply to and how many applications to submit. Additional family medicine Match resources are available at aafp.org/match.

Many program directors are committed to a holistic application review, especially in this challenging application year. The ability of programs to review applications holistically will depend on the number of applications received. By using data and other resources to avoid reaching the point of diminishing returns in the number of applications submitted, the Match process will be improved for students and programs.

Although this environment is new and poses some uncertainty for us all, we are committed to aiming for new and innovative ways to connect with students during the 2020-21 interview and Match process. As always, we anticipate this season with excitement. We wish you all a safe and successful residency matching experience.

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