LESIONS LEARNED FROM THE CEO

Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, the California wildfires, tornadoes throughout the Midwest, and now the COVID-19 pandemic are recent adversities affecting millions of US citizens. It is not a matter of IF a crisis occurs, but rather WHEN a crisis will occur. Before a crisis strikes, leaders must determine how a disaster will affect employees and constituents; therefore, advance planning is critical to the success of any organization. Regardless of the size of the organization, everyone should have a contingency plan in place. The plan will assist the organization in returning to business as normal with the least amount of disruption to its constituents while protecting the organization’s resources and safety of its employees. The plan should address any catastrophic event that could affect the operations of the organization. The development and the success of a contingency plan requires input from the entire staff.

A critical component of developing the JRCERT’s plan was to assess potential risks that would impact our ability to perform day-to-day responsibilities if staff were unable to access the office. It is imperative that staff have the appropriate technological tools permitting them to work remotely, such as hardware, software, internet capabilities, and the ability to access accreditation files and data. After identifying potential risks, a key component of the plan was to develop communication strategies. An integral part of this strategy is for the JRCERT staff to engage in daily virtual meetings. This allows staff to participate in discussion to assure continuity in delivery of the accreditation process. The daily communication also enables staff to stay connected on a personal basis. It provides an opportunity for our leadership to affirm that staff are maintaining their health and well-being and are safe during the crisis. It is important to inspire and motivate your team from a distance.

An additional component in our communication strategy is to maintain ongoing consultation with our programs. The JRCERT staff continues to provide support and guidance for our programs. We are affording programs the creativity and flexibility in an effort to enable students to matriculate through their program. This latitude will allow sponsoring institutions and program officials the ability to make sound decisions that will provide positive outcomes for their students during these difficult times.

The safety and well-being of our program faculty, students, site visitors, and JRCERT staff are always at the forefront of our decision making. It is uncertain when educators and students may return to the classrooms or face-to-face site visits may resume. We continue to respond in a proactive and dynamic manner in the environment in which we operate. It has been said that a crisis is an excellent opportunity to prepare for the next crisis. With that being said, it is important to revisit your plan periodically to assure it is up-to-date.

As always, the JRCERT staff is available to assist you with any questions you may have.

Stay safe and healthy.

Leslie
SITE VISITOR WEBINAR

The JRCERT will be offering experienced site visitors a daylong Site Visitor Webinar via the Zoom platform. You are invited to attend on Thursday, October 1, 2020. Registration for this event is on a first come, first served basis. Please email Janet Luczak (jluczak@jrcert.org) to register for this webinar.

2021 STANDARDS

Before the April 2020 meeting of the JRCERT Board of Directors, the Standards Committee met to discuss comments received since the October 2019 meeting of the committee. The committee received feedback from individuals through online surveys regarding Draft 3 and Draft 3 Revisions. Additional comments and feedback were received during the past six months from several national and state organizations including: American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) - Radiation Therapy and Medical Dosimetry Chapter, Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS), Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB), and The Association of Educators in Radiologic Technology of the State of New York (AERTSNY). The JRCERT is very grateful for all of the comments and feedback received throughout the duration of the Standards Revision project.

Based on feedback and comments, the Standards Committee made minor changes to the Draft 3 Revisions document. Some of the changes are as follows (underlined phrases note changes):

**Objective 3.1** (all disciplines) – Institutional policies and practices for faculty workload and release time must be consistent with, and comparable to, faculty in other health sciences programs in the same institution. Faculty workload and release time practices must include allocating time and/or reducing teaching load for educational, accreditation, and administrative requirements expected of the program director and clinical coordinator.

A definition of comparable will be added to the glossary.

**Objective 3.1** (Medical Dosimetry) - A full-time program director is required. The program director may also be identified as the radiation therapy program director. Also, a full-time equivalent clinical coordinator is required if the program has more than fifteen (15) students enrolled in the clinical component of the program. The clinical coordinator may also be identified as the radiation therapy clinical coordinator.

**Objective 4.2** (all disciplines) - A well-structured curriculum ... variety of situations and patient conditions. The well-structured curriculum is guided by a master plan of education.

The JRCERT encourages innovative approaches to curriculum delivery methods that provide students with flexible and creative learning opportunities. These methods may include, but are not limited to, distance education courses, part-time/evening curricular tracks, service learning, and/or interprofessional development.

**Objective 5.4** (Radiography) - Students must be directly supervised during surgical and all mobile, including mobile fluoroscopy, procedures regardless of the level of competency.

The Standards Committee arrived at a consensus to adopt the 2021 Standards and brought forth the recommendation that the full Board adopt the Standards during the April Board Meeting. At the April 2020 Board Meeting, the JRCERT Board of Directors moved to adopt the 2021 Standards with an implementation date of January 1, 2021.

JRCERT staff are making final editorial and grammatical revisions to the 2021 Standards documents before the documents are copywritten. These documents will then be published on the JRCERT website as soon as possible thereafter.
TRAVEL AGENCY TEMPORARY HOURS

Due to the current slowing of demand for travel services, Premier Travel Management is temporarily adjusting their office hours. As of Monday, April 20, 2020 their hours of operation are 8am to 5pm, M-F.

Should you require travel assistance outside of their office hours, you may continue to call their designated after hours number (Note $20 charge per after hours call, plus any applicable cost for ticketing action).

When their clients begin to travel again, they will return to their previous operating hours to best serve you.

Premier Travel Management
(312) 427-8400

IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

- Airlines will require all passengers to wear face coverings – please check each airline’s website prior to travel for the most up-to-date policies in effect.
- Airlines are restricting the service of food and beverages on flights – again, please check the airline website for specific information prior to your flight.
- Airport check-in and boarding procedures have changed to provide for compliance with social distancing requirements.
- Information on cleaning procedures and other sanitation methods in place is readily available on most vendor sites.
- Be sure to research regulations in effect at any location to which you are traveling as they differ greatly by locale.

JRCERT HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR ONSITE EVALUATIONS

Please click here for a flyer with the JRCERT’s health and safety guidelines for onsite evaluations.

REAL ID COMPLIANCE

In 2005, the United States Congress passed the Real ID Act. This act “establishes minimum security standards for license issuance and production and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver’s licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act’s minimum standards.” This includes identification for boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

Starting October 1, 2021, every air traveler will need to present a REAL ID compliant license/ID, or another acceptable form of identification. The license/ID must be REAL ID compliant unless the traveler is using an alternative acceptable document such as a passport.²

As of the writing of this article, 52 states, territories, and the District of Columbia have been determined by the Department of Homeland Security as compliant with all REAL ID requirements. The other 4 jurisdictions are noncompliant, but have been granted temporary extensions to come into compliance or are currently under review.

Site visitors are strongly encouraged to review the Department of Homeland Security webpage regarding the REAL ID and to determine their state’s current level of compliance.

1: https://www.dhs.gov/real-id
2: https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs

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