CoARC Update on Response to COVID-19

# July 25, 2022

At its July Board meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) reviewed its December 12, 2021, COVID-19 Policy Statement and the practicability of programs returning to pre-pandemic processes/status as soon as practicable.

The CoARC announces that it will return to its pre-pandemic procedure to review substantive changes **effective September 1, 2022**. Any programmatic changes, e.g., curriculum delivery changes that will become or have been made permanent, for whatever reason, must be reported to the CoARC Executive Office as outlined in Section 9 [Substantive Changes] of the *CoARC Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual* (available at [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)). The CoARC Executive Office is responsible for reviewing all substantive changes between regularly scheduled comprehensive on-site evaluations to determine whether the change can affect the program’s quality and to assure the public that all aspects of the program continue to meet the *Standards*. While the decision to implement a substantive change is the sponsor’s prerogative and responsibility, the CoARC is obligated to assess the effect of any substantive change on the program’s ability to meet the *Standards* and Policies.

The sponsor must follow the CoARC’s Substantive Change policies and procedures and notify the CoARC of such changes in accord with those procedures. Generally, a program considering a substantive change should notify the CoARC early in the process. Such notification will provide an opportunity for the program to consult with CoARC Executive Office staff regarding the potential effect of the change on its accreditation status and the procedures to be followed. If an accredited program is unclear whether a change is substantive, it should contact the CoARC Executive Office. If a program fails to follow this substantive change policy and its procedures, it may be subject to an adverse accreditation action.

For questions regarding this communication, please contact [Tom Smalling](mailto:tom@coarc.com), Chief Executive Officer, at 817- 283-2835 ext. 101.