



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-2020326-00436-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers - Statewide  
**DATE:** Thursday, March 26, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** CMS Elective Surgery and Procedures  
Recommendations

Dear colleagues,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CMS, CDC and the White House have all recommended the postponement of elective surgical procedures that do not meet a specific threshold of urgency. Given the rapidly increasing case count of COVID-19 in Mississippi and the dire shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), compliance with this guidance is necessary. It is the expectation of MSDH that physicians in Mississippi would follow the recommendations below, aligned with the included decision matrix, when determining which surgeries and procedures should be delayed.

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.pdf>

However, we do realize that there are different circumstances that require clinical judgement when deciding whether it is appropriate to delay a given surgery or procedure. To that end we defer to the clinical judgement of a physician, taking in good faith that the decision is made in the context of the needs of the community.

We also strongly recommend that all physicians and healthcare providers in every field delay non-urgent clinical visits. We recommend that any visit that can be safely delayed for several weeks be delayed at this time.

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State Health Officer

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