



office of the governor of the commonwealth of virginia

# Resuming Non -Urgent Procedures

Deputy Secretary of Health and human resources

Vanessa Walker Harris, m.d.

MSV

May 1, 2020

# Overview

- Order of Public Emergency Two
- Resuming Non-Urgent Surgeries

# Order of Public Emergency Two

On March 25th, the Governor and State Health Commissioner issued a public health emergency order prohibiting licensed inpatient and outpatient surgical hospitals, freestanding endoscopy centers, physicians' offices, and dental, orthodontic, and endodontic offices from providing procedures and surgeries that require personal protective equipment (PPE), which if delayed, are not anticipated to cause harm to the patient by negatively affecting the patient's health outcomes, or leading to disability or death.

- Any procedure or surgery that if delayed or canceled would result in the patient's condition worsening is exempt.
- Additionally, surgeries and procedures exempt from this order include outpatient visits delivered in hospital-based clinics.
- This Order does not apply to the full suite of family planning services and procedures or to treatment for patients with emergency/urgent needs

# Resuming Non-Urgent Procedures

- Factors to consider
  - Able to perform procedures according to commonly accepted standard of clinical practice and that doing so will not deplete facility or hospital capacity or the PPE needed to cope with the COVID disaster
  - Adequate staffing and supplies are available throughout the entire patient journey (presurgical, intra- and postoperative and during recovery in and out of the hospital), not detracting from local surge needs
  - Ability to reserve at least 25% of its hospital capacity during Phase 1 of the Governor's Forward Virginia Blueprint (beds, ventilators, staff, supplies, medications) for treatment of COVID patients

# Resuming Non-Urgent Procedures

- Factors to consider
  - Ensure at least a 30 day supply of PPE both for universal precautions as per CDC guidance and appropriate to the number and type of procedures to be performed and ability to maintain supply without requiring routine or frequent requests from any public source, whether federal, state, or local
  - Adherence to CDC guidelines to healthcare facilities for preparing and responding to community spread
  - Ensure a preoperative testing policy is developed and implemented
  - Ensure sufficient testing capacity, including sample collection supplies and PPE, to perform diagnostic COVID-19 testing that adheres to the facility's preoperative testing policy

# Resuming Non-Urgent Procedures

- Factors to consider
  - Ensuresufficient supply of pharmaceuticals related to the care of patients with COVID-19
  - Establish an objective method to prioritize ~~urgent~~ procedures and cases that addresses immediate patient needs and allows for surge response, similar to the approach described in [the Joint Statement: Roadmap for Resuming Non-urgent Surgery After COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

# Resuming Non-Urgent Procedures

- FAQ on Resuming Non-Urgent Procedures
- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus/faq-non-urgent-procedures-and-surgeries/>

Vanessa Walker Harris, MD

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources

[www.hhr.virginia.gov](http://www.hhr.virginia.gov)

vanessa.walker.harris@governor.virginia.gov