

# State Guidance on Elective Surgeries & Services

In an effort to preserve personal protective equipment (PPE) and limit the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, many states have issued guidance and banned elective and non-urgent medical procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of states issued their own responses after the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance on March 18 encouraging health care systems and physicians to limit non-essential elective surgery and medical procedures for adults.<sup>1</sup>

One day later, ASPS President Lynn Jeffers, MD, MBA, FACS, issued guidance to ASPS members recommending that all plastic surgeons cease providing any elective or non-essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find the latest updates to that guidance at the [ASPS COVID-19 resource page](#). Please remember, though, that *hospital, local, and regional regulatory bodies will determine the actual practice in each hospital or facility*, and any additional restrictions that are applied by such bodies supersede any guidelines set forth by ASPS or any other private organization.

List of state guidance on elective surgeries and services during the COVID-19 national emergency:

State	Action Taken	State Guidance on Elective Surgeries & Services
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	Executive Action	Governor Kay Ivey called for the immediate delay of all elective dental and medical procedures.
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	Executive Action	Governor Mike Dunleavy has required all patients, providers, hospitals and surgical centers to postpone or cancel all non-urgent or elective procedures for three months to decrease the overall impact on the Alaska health care structure and preserve personal protective equipment. The governor has also required elective oral health care procedures to be postponed for a period of one month.
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	Executive Action	Governor Douglas Ducey ordered that all non-essential or elective surgeries that utilize PPE or ventilators shall not be performed by any licensed healthcare facility in the state.
<a href="#">Arkansas</a>	Executive Action	The Arkansas Department of Health postponed all procedures, testing, and office visits that can be safely rescheduled to an appropriate future date.
<a href="#">Colorado</a>	Executive Action	Governor Jared Polis has ordered temporary cessation of all elective and non-essential medical, dental, or veterinary surgeries and procedures.
<a href="#">Florida</a>	Executive Action	Governor Ron DeSantis has prohibited ambulatory surgical centers, and office surgery centers from performing any medically unnecessary, non-urgent or non-emergency procedure or surgery which, if delayed, does not place a patient's immediate health, safety, or well-being at risk during the public health emergency.
<a href="#">Illinois</a>	Executive Action	The Illinois Department of Health "recommended cancelling ALL elective surgeries and procedures to immediately decompress the healthcare system during the COVID-19 response that are considered non-emergent or elective."

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.pdf>

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<a href="#">Indiana</a>	Executive Action	Governor Eric Holcomb directed hospitals and other medical facilities to immediately cancel or postpone non-urgent and elective surgeries.
<a href="#">Iowa</a>	Executive Action	Governor Kim Reynolds ordered the suspension of elective and nonessential medical and dental procedures.
<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	Executive Action	Governor Andy Beshear has ceased all non-emergent, non-urgent in-person medical, surgical, dental, and any other healthcare practice or procedure.
<a href="#">Louisiana</a>	Executive Action	The Louisiana Department of Health postponed all nonemergent medical and surgical procedures.
<a href="#">Maine</a>	Executive Action	Governor Janet Mills declared a civil emergency in response to COVID-19. In addition, the governor is <b>recommending</b> postponing all non-urgent medical procedures, elective surgeries, and appointments at hospitals and health care providers across the state until further notice.
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	Executive Action	With authority vested by Governor Larry Hogan, the Maryland Department of Health ordered all hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and licensed health care facilities to cease all elective and non-urgent medical procedures.
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	Executive Action	Governor Charlie Baker ordered all hospitals and ASCs to cancel nonessential elective procedures.
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	Executive Action	Governor Gretchen Whitmer has ordered temporary restrictions on non-essential medical and dental procedures.
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Tim Walz ordered health care providers to postpone elective surgeries and other medical procedures so they can focus their resources on responding to the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases. The order defines nonessential procedures as those that can be delayed without undue risk to the patient's health. The governor's office said providers should not postpone treatments that prevent loss of life, permanent dysfunction of an organ or limb, or that risk the spread of cancer.
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	Executive Action	Governor Tate Reeves postponed all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition.
<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	Executive Action	The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services prohibited elective medical and dental surgeries and procedures.
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	Executive Action	Governor Phillip Murphy ordered all elective surgeries and elective invasive procedures that can be delayed without undue risk to the patient's future health to be cancelled or postponed indefinitely.

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<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	Executive Action	Governor Grisham declared that all hospitals, health care facilities, and ambulatory surgical facilities are prohibited from providing non-essential health care services, procedures, and surgeries.
<a href="#">New York</a>	Executive Action	Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that all hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery practices shall increase the number of beds available to patients and cancel all elective surgeries and procedures.
<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	Executive Action	The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen requested that all hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers suspend all elective and non-urgent procedures and surgeries.
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	Executive Action	Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton ordered hospitals to delay elective surgeries during the state's coronavirus threat. The order makes mandatory Gov. Mike DeWine's recommendation that people postpone dental, veterinary, and possibly medical elective surgeries, in part because of a shortage of masks needed to protect medical professionals against coronavirus.
<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	Executive Action	Governor Kevin Stitt postponed all elective surgeries, minor medical procedures and non-emergency dental procedures.
<a href="#">Oregon</a>	Executive Action	Governor Kate Brown has ordered temporary suspension of elective and non-urgent medical, dental, and veterinary procedures.
<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	Executive Action	The Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, Rachel Levine, MD announced that hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and office-based centers are prohibited from performing elective services.
<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	Executive Action	Governor Kristi Noem postponed all non-essential elective surgeries to conserve PPE.
<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	Executive Action	Governor Bill Lee issued an executive order that stipulated that all hospitals and surgical outpatient facilities shall not perform non-essential procedures.
<a href="#">Texas</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Greg Abbott placed a temporary ban on all elective surgeries and suspended regulations so hospitals can treat more than one patient in a room.
<a href="#">Utah</a>	Executive Action	Governor Gary Herbert announced that all elective surgeries and procedures in accordance with CMS Adult Elective Surgery and Procedure Recommendations shall be postponed until April 25, 2020.
<a href="#">Vermont</a>	Executive Action	Governor Phil Scott postponed all nonessential adult elective medical and surgical procedures.
<a href="#">Virginia</a>	Executive Action	Governor Ralph Northam prohibited all inpatient and outpatient surgical hospitals, free-standing endoscopy centers, physicians' offices, dental, and orthodontic, and endodontic offices from providing procedures and surgeries that require PPE, which if delayed are not anticipated to cause harm to the patient or result in poor health outcomes.

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<a href="#">Washington</a>	Executive Action	Governor Jay Inslee announced restrictions today on non-urgent medical and dental procedures so the state can make sure Washington health care workers have enough protective equipment to wear as they work the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today's order applies to any non-urgent procedure that requires medical professionals to wear personal protective equipment.
<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	Executive Action	Governor James Justice prohibited elective medical procedures to conserve limited medical personnel, PPE, and other necessary medical equipment.