

# 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	Gov. Kay Ivey called for the immediate delay of all elective dental and medical procedures.
<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="#">Florida</a>	Executive Action	Gov. 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="#">Iowa</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered the suspension of elective and nonessential medical and dental procedures until May 15. Elective procedures may be performed if further delay will pose a significant risk to quality of life.
<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	Executive Action	Gov. 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.

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

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<a href="#">Maine</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Janet Mills recommended 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	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	Gov. Charlie Baker ordered all hospitals and ASCs to cancel nonessential elective procedures.
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	Executive Action	Gov. 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="#">New Jersey</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Phillip Murphy has signed an executive order allowing elective surgeries and invasive procedures to resume May 26.
<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	Executive Action	Gov. 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	Gov. 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="#">Oregon</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Kate Brown has ordered temporary suspension of elective and non-urgent medical, dental, and veterinary procedures.

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<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Kristi Noem postponed all non-essential elective surgeries.
<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	Executive Action	Gov. Bill Lee issued an executive order that stipulated that all hospitals and surgical outpatient facilities shall not perform nonessential 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. Hospitals and ASCs are now able to resume elective surgeries when certain guidelines are met.
<a href="#">Washington</a>	Executive Action	Gov. 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	Gov. James Justice prohibited elective medical procedures to conserve limited medical personnel, PPE, and other necessary medical equipment.