GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order 2020-10

Delaying Elective Surgeries to Conserve Personal Protective Equipment Necessary to Test and Treat Patients with COVID-19

WHEREAS, both the state of Arizona and the federal government have declared a public health emergency to address the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); AND

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a national emergency due to both the health and economic implications of the COVID-19 virus; AND

WHEREAS, the disease caused by COVID-19 is contagious and can be fatal, resulting in the World Health Organization declaring it a global pandemic; AND

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has experienced community spread of COVID-19 in multiple counties as it continues to spread across the country and the state, posing an increasing threat to public health and having a devastating impact on the economy; AND

WHEREAS, personal protective equipment (PPE), including N-95 masks, surgical masks, surgical gloves, and protective gowns are necessary for the protection of healthcare professionals who provide testing and treatment for patients with COVID-19; AND

WHEREAS, because high demand for PPE worldwide has created a temporary shortage and made it necessary to conserve as much PPE as possible for the protection of healthcare providers testing for and treating COVID-19; AND

WHEREAS, patients with the most critical cases of COVID-19 have been shown to require hospitalization and high level medical intervention, including the use of a ventilator; AND

WHEREAS, elective medical and dental surgeries that use scarce resources during this pandemic can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of a patient; AND

WHEREAS, delaying of non-essential, elective medical and dental surgery will conserve hospital beds, PPE and other equipment such as ventilators needed to treat COVID-19 patients; AND

WHEREAS, conserving healthcare resources is essential to protecting our public health system and ensuring the safety and protection of our healthcare workforce; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in my by the Constitution and laws of this state, hereby order as follows:

1. Beginning on Saturday, March 21, at 8:00 AM , all non-essential or elective surgeries, including elective dental surgeries, that utilize personal protective equipment or ventilators shall not be performed at any licensed healthcare facility or by any licensed healthcare provider in the State of Arizona.

2. A non-essential or elective surgery means a surgery that can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of a patient. A licensed medical professional shall use their best medical judgment in determining whether a surgery is non-essential or elective. In making that decision, the medical professional shall consider the health and age of the patient, especially given the risks of concurrent COVID-19 infection during recovery and the urgency of the surgery. A surgery should not be deemed non-essential or elective if it would threaten the patient's life, threaten permanent dysfunction or impairment of any body part, risk metastasis or progression of staging, or require the patient to remain hospitalized if the surgery was delayed.

3. This order shall remain in place until further notice, and shall be reconsidered for repeal or revision every two weeks following issuance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Douglas A. Ducey

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this nineteenth day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State