Ohio | Department of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, Director

DIRECTOR'S ORDER

Re: Director's Order that Amends the Requirements for Non-Essential Surgeries and Procedures

I, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to the authority granted to me in R.C. 3701.13 to "make special orders…for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases" **Order** the following to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the State of Ohio:

1. The sacrifices and incredible efforts that Ohioans have undertaken, make it possible to begin to lift the mandatory requirements and restrictions that were needed during the initial phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
2. Section 8 (Medical Care) of the Director of Health Updated and Revised Order for Business Guidance and Social Distancing, signed May 29, 2020, that governed non-essential surgeries and procedures in the State is amended to read as follows:

> **Medical Care.** The Director of Health Order signed March 17, 2020, for the management of non-essential surgeries and procedures throughout Ohio, is rescinded effective at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020.
>
> Medical providers, including dentists, in the State may resume all surgeries and procedures that were delayed by prior Director of Health orders. Medical providers shall continue to adhere to the following:
>
> a. The provider follows infection control and other environmental practices in accordance with the ODH and CDC guidelines;
> b. The provider maintains adequate inventories of PPE, supplies, equipment, and medicine in their facility for each patient, considering all phases of care the patient may require,
> c. The provider creates a plan for conservation and monitoring that may include decontamination and reuse protocols to preserve PPE, supplies, equipment, and medicine to be prepared for an influx of patients, including those who do not have COVID-19;
> d. The provider evaluates access to a reliable supply chain to support continued operations for non-COVID-19 cases, and to respond to an unexpected surge in COVID-19 cases in a timely manner;
> e. The provider frequently counts PPE inventory. For hospitals, this information will continue to be reported to the State's COVID-19 resource management system on a daily basis;
> f. The provider defines processes for timely COVID-19 testing of patients and staff in accordance with the ODH guidelines;
> g. The provider continues to use telehealth modalities whenever possible; and

h. The provider develops an actionable plan for communication, outreach, and equitable delivery of services that:
   i. Recognizes the underlying social determinants of health and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority populations;
   ii. Engages patients in discussion regarding the risk of contracting COVID-19; and
   iii. Engages patients in shared decision making regarding the need for and timing of health care services. Surgeries and other procedures could still be delayed based upon mutual decisions made by patients and their clinicians.

As a provider prepares to restart non-essential health care services, hospitals and other providers should review the following types of considerations:

a. Pre-restart considerations;
b. Prioritizing patient outreach and scheduling;
c. Patient Communication;
d. Patient Screening for COVID-19;
e. Facility Considerations;
f. Workforce/Staffing;
g. Sanitation Procedures;
h. Personnel Protective Equipment;
i. Supplies;
j. Patient and Staff Testing; and
k. Consultation of additional Resources.

Providers should continue to use telehealth modalities, whenever possible, and create or use existing internal strategies to prioritize cases based on the medical staff's governance and resolution structure. Providers should also follow the Responsible Restart Ohio Guide for Health Care distributed by ODH.

3. This Order shall be effective immediately.

Amy Acton MD MPH

June 2, 2020

Amy Acton, MD, MPH
Director of Health