

## COVID-19 Checklist for Essential Versus Non-Essential Surgeries Responding to COVID-19

A March 17, 2020, order from Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, called for the cancellation or postponement of all non-essential or elective surgeries. It is intended to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to preserve personnel and supplies to respond to the pandemic as well as to patients in need of urgent care for other reasons.

***It is vital that non-COVID-19 patients who do need important care continue to receive it.***

Some things to consider:

- A surgery or procedure should go forward to save a life, to manage severe disease, or to avoid further harms from an underlying condition.
- The order defines a non-essential surgery as a procedure that can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of a patient.
- Ask yourself:
  - Does postponing the procedure threaten the patient's life?
  - Could postponing the procedure lead to permanent dysfunction of an extremity or organ system?
  - Is there a risk of metastasis or progression of staging?
  - Is there time sensitivity? Could the patient develop rapidly worsening or severe symptoms without the procedure?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the procedure should proceed.

- Each situation will be different. It is not necessarily appropriate to cancel every instance of a specific procedure. Some patients undergoing that procedure may be in urgent need of care, while others will be unharmed if it is postponed.
- The health and age of each individual patient and the risk of severe outcomes — to both physical health and mental health — are among factors that should be considered.

- If a healthcare provider is unsure, the provider should consult with a colleague. Document that the discussion was held, the decision, and reasoning.
- For additional guidance, it is appropriate to reach out to professional societies and associations in specific specialty areas.
- Decisions remain the responsibility of providers and local healthcare delivery systems.
- When procedures do go forward, the order requires that only people essential to conducting the surgeries or procedures are present in surgery suites or other patient care areas where personal protective equipment is required.

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword "4HOPE" to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

Additional resources:

U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Coronavirus (COVID-19) Partner Toolkit: <https://www.cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit>.

American Medical Association: Helping private practices navigate non-essential care during COVID-19: <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/helping-private-practices-navigate-non-essential-care-during-covid-19>.

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department  
of Health

Protect yourself and others from  
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

## PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



STAY HOME



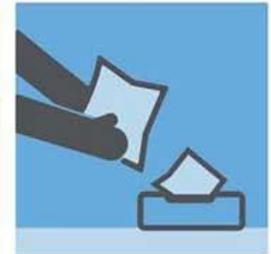
PRACTICE  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP  
AND EAT WELL-  
BALANCED  
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN  
WITH WATER AND SOAP  
( 20 SECONDS  
OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH  
A CLEAN TOWEL  
OR AIR DRY  
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH  
WITH A TISSUE OR  
SLEEVE WHEN  
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING  
YOUR EYES, NOSE,  
OR MOUTH WITH  
UNWASHED HANDS  
OR AFTER  
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT  
"HIGH-TOUCH"  
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING  
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD  
HYGIENE HABITS

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)