

COVID-19: Guidance from the Wyoming Department of Health on Resuming Elective and Non-emergency Procedures

April 24, 2020

Background

While the Wyoming Department of Health and Governor's Office did not prohibit elective procedures through statewide orders, hospitals and providers were encouraged to follow guidance from CMS and CDC that recommended suspending these procedures in order to preserve PPE and protect Wyoming's hospital capacity during the outbreak. The Department is grateful to hospitals and providers who have suspended these procedures while the state manages the COVID-19 outbreak. On April 19, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released [updated recommendations](#) to healthcare providers regarding the "re-opening of facilities" that provide non-emergent and non-COVID-19 care and procedures (referred to in this document as 'elective procedures').

The Department of Health is recommending that hospitals and providers follow the current CMS guidelines with respect to resuming elective procedures. The guidelines below are meant to assist in these decisions.

General Guidelines

Healthcare providers seeking to resume elective procedures should use the following guidelines:

1. Hospitals and providers should follow the most recent guidance and regulations from CMS and the CDC.
2. Hospitals and providers and providers should consult with their County Health Officers on decisions to resume non-emergent care.
3. Hospitals and providers should work with their County Health Officer and the State Health Officer in determining if the "gating criteria" outlined in the CMS recommendations have been met in the region, before resuming non-emergent and elective procedures.
4. Hospitals and providers resuming elective procedures should proceed cautiously and in a step-wise fashion.
5. Steps should be taken to ensure that appropriate referrals can be made if a procedure results in complications that require a higher level of care.
6. Before resuming elective procedures, hospitals and providers should ensure they have adequate PPE, staffing, and capacity to care for a potential surge of COVID-19 patients.
7. Hospitals and providers should ensure there is adequate COVID-19 testing capacity in the region to test symptomatic patients.
8. PPE provided by the State of Wyoming **shall not** be used for non-emergent care or elective procedures.
9. Guidance and resources – including tools for surge planning, PPE preservation, etc. – are available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

For more information and access to other resources, please visit: covid19.wyo.gov | health.wyo.gov | cdc.gov

