



March 23, 2020

Dear Surgical and Procedural Colleagues,

We want to update you on the status of temporary postponement of “elective-optional” procedural cases at all Renown locations, intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to preserve critical resources, which started on Tuesday, March 17.

In our original letter, we mentioned, our plan to *“minimize, postpone, or cancel electively scheduled operations, endoscopies, or other invasive procedures until we have passed the predicted inflection point in the exposure graph and can be confident that our health care infrastructure can support a potentially rapid and overwhelming uptick in critical patient care needs.”* We intentionally did not provide a date for resumption of normal scheduling activities due to the unpredictability of clearly identifying the timing of these events as they unfold. At this time, we have not yet reached this inflection point and critical resources such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and hospital bed space are being utilized at an increasing rate. Two important points:

- **Scheduling of “elective-optional” surgery remains on hold.** The date for resumption of elective surgery is unknown but you will be updated frequently. Requests may still be submitted to Renown, and they will be filed until we are confident that we are able to begin our return to our normal process.
- You should anticipate the *possibility* of more stringent restrictions around surgery scheduling that might result in the scheduling of urgent and emergent procedures *only*. We are not at this point yet, but ongoing depletion of critical resources *may* necessitate these difficult decisions.

We appreciate that this uncertainty makes the situation more difficult for everyone. We are all interested in providing the best care possible to our patients and returning to normal operations and realize that preserving community health and healthcare worker safety under unprecedented circumstances dictate current actions and planning.

Sincerely,
Renown Health and Surgical Services Leadership