



KENTUCKY BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Andy Beshear
Governor

Hurstbourne Office Park
310 Whittington Parkway, Suite 1B
Louisville, Kentucky 40222

www.kbml.ky.gov
(502) 429-7150

MEMORANDUM

To: All Licensed Kentucky Physicians

From: Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure

Date: March 18, 2020

RE: Elective Surgery Statement Issued by Cabinet for Health and Family Services

For your review, the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure has attached a directive, dated March 18, 2020, and issued by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services regarding medical procedures. In discussions with the Cabinet, it is our understanding this directive applies to all procedures no matter the location or setting, which includes a physician's in-office setting or outpatient surgery center.

Please note the directive does give a physician the discretion whether a delay will not cause harm to the patient or negatively affect the patient's life expectancy.



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
Department for Community Based Services
Office of the Commissioner

Andy Beshear
Governor

275 East Main Street, 5W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621
502-564-7042
502-564-7091
www.chfs.ky.gov

Eric C. Friedlander
Acting Secretary

Steven Stack MD
Commissioner
Public Health

March 18, 2020

On March 6, 2020 the Governor Andy Beshear signed Executive order 2020-215 declaring a state of emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, a public health emergency. On March 14, 2020 Governor Beshear recommended that Kentucky hospitals cease performing elective procedures on March 18, 2020. Therefore, pursuant to the authority in KRS 194A.025, KRS 214.020 and Executive Order 2020-215 the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Public Health states that the following directives are in effect during the this state of emergency:

Based upon the predicted surge of COVID-19 patients and the medical resources that will be required to treat them healthcare providers in the Commonwealth are hereby directed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Public Health to cancel all procedures that in the opinion of a physician the delay will not cause harm to the patient or negatively affect the patient's life expectancy. This directive takes effect at midnight March 18, 2020 and will include all levels of care.

The Secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has been designated by the Governor to deliver these directives during this public health emergency.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will continue to provide information and updates to healthcare providers during the duration of this Public Health Emergency.

Sincerely,

Eric Friedlander
Acting Secretary
Governor's Designee

Dr. Steven J. Stack
Commissioner
Public Health