



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20200710-00455-ALT (Health Alert)

**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide

**Friday, July 10, 2020**

**SUBJECT:** STATE HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER  
Postpone Non-Urgent Surgeries and Procedures  
Requiring Hospitalization Statewide

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. §§ 41-3-51, 41-3-15 et. seq., 41-23-1 et. seq. and the State of Emergency Declaration by the Governor of the State of Mississippi related to the coronavirus COVID- 19 issued on March 14, 2020 I, Thomas Dobbs, State Health Officer, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health, hereby issue this Order for the provision of Elective and Non-Urgent Medical Services and Surgery effective July 12, 2020 until July 20, 2020 throughout the state of Mississippi, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

**Non-Urgent Surgeries and Procedures Requiring Hospitalization**

Due to increasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, and increasing demands on the healthcare system, and diminishing availability of inpatient medical services throughout Mississippi:

- 1) Surgeries in Tier 1 and 2 (from Appendix) that require overnight hospitalization must be postponed beyond July 20, 2020.
- 2) Elective medical admissions that can be safely delayed should be postponed beyond July 20, 2020.

Any surgery in Tier 1 or 2 that requires overnight hospitalization that is performed due to extraordinary circumstances must be accompanied by an extensive and compelling justification.

This 10<sup>th</sup> Day of July 2020.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer  
Mississippi State Department of Health



**Appendix:**

| Tiers    | Action                                 | Definition  | Locations  | Examples  |
|----------|--|---|--|---|
| Tier 1a  | Postpone surgery/procedure             | <b>Low acuity surgery/healthy patient</b> -outpatient surgery<br>Not life-threatening illness   | HOPD*<br>ASC**<br>Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census | -Carpal tunnel release<br>-EGD<br>-Colonoscopy<br>-Cataracts  |
| Tier 1b  | Postpone surgery/procedure             | <b>Low acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</b>   | HOPD<br>ASC<br>Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census    | -Endoscopies  |
| Tier 2a  | Consider postponing surgery/procedure  | <b>Intermediate acuity surgery/healthy patient</b> - Not life threatening but potential for future morbidity and mortality. Requires in-hospital stay | HOPD<br>ASC<br>Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census    | -Low risk cancer<br>-Non urgent spine & Ortho:<br>Including hip, knee replacement and elective spine surgery<br>-Stable ureteral colic<br><br>-Elective angioplasty |
| Tier 2b  | Postpone surgery/procedure if possible | <b>Intermediate acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</b>  | HOPD<br>ASC<br>Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census    |   |
| Tier 3a  | Do not postpone                        | <b>High acuity surgery/healthy patient</b>  | Hospital   | -Most cancers<br>-Neurosurgery<br><br>-Highly symptomatic patients  |
| Tiers 3b | Do not postpone                        | <b>High acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</b>  | Hospital   | -Transplants<br>-Trauma<br>-Cardiac w/symptoms<br>-Limb threatening vascular surgery  |

\*Hospital Outpatient Department \*\*Ambulatory Surgery Center

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-elective-surgery-recommendations.pdf>



**Alerting Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20200710-00455-ALT  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00455  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



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**Message Type:**

- Alert: Indicates an original Alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).