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

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20200718-00458-ALT (Health Alert)

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

Saturday, July 18, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-19 State Health Officer Order for Inpatient Medical Capacity

STATE HEALTH OFFICER’S ORDER

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, MD, MPH, 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 20, 2020 until August 3, 2020, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

Inpatient Medical Capacity

To meet the increasing demands of rising COVID-19 hospitalization, all hospitals with critical care services must activate surge Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity at this time and maintain a minimum of 10% availability. In addition, all hospitals must report COVID-19 patient transfers (from ER or inpatient) to Mississippi Med-Com (601 984-4367) and maintain a minimum of 10% inpatient bed capacity (medical/surgical floor beds). Any hospital that is unable to meet these minimum requirements, or unable to admit COVID-19 patients or take COVID-19 patients in transfer for any 2-hour period must delay for the following seven (7) days all:

Elective surgeries in Tier 1 and 2 (from Appendix) that require overnight hospitalization.

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 18th Day of July 2020.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Health Officer
Mississippi State Department of Health
### Appendix:

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<th>Definition</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 1a</td>
<td>Postpone surgery/procedure</td>
<td>Low acuity surgery/healthy patient-outpatient surgery Not life-threatening illness</td>
<td>HOPD* ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census</td>
<td>- Carpal tunnel release - EGD - Colonoscopy - Cataracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 1b</td>
<td>Postpone surgery/procedure</td>
<td>Low acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</td>
<td>HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census</td>
<td>- Endoscopies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 2b</td>
<td>Postpone surgery/procedure if possible</td>
<td>Intermediate acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</td>
<td>HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3a</td>
<td>Do not postpone</td>
<td>High acuity surgery/healthy patient</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>- Most cancers - Neurosurgery - Highly symptomatic patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiers 3b</td>
<td>Do not postpone</td>
<td>High acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>- Transplants - Trauma - Cardiac w/symptoms - Limb threatening vascular surgery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Hospital Outpatient Department  **Ambulatory Surgery Center

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20200718-00458-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00458
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-yyyyymmdd-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
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)).