



**Minnesota Hospital Association**

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## **MHA statement on Gov. Tim Walz's executive order resuming elective surgeries**

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Minnesota's hospitals and health systems have been working hard to prepare for and treat COVID-19 patients while ensuring that Minnesotans continue to receive needed care to maintain their health. The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) supported Gov. Walz's March 19 executive order postponing elective surgeries if a delay would not result in harm to the patient, which provided needed time for a coordinated state effort to acquire necessary supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) and to build ICU and bed capacity. With the hard work of the state to increase testing and tracking and reserving PPE to accommodate a surge of patients, a foundation has been set for a thoughtful and methodical resumption of more surgeries.

Hospitals and health systems provided input to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on what would need to be in place for elective surgeries to resume across all settings of care, including testing and PPE supplies that can support increased surgery volumes while appropriately caring for COVID-19 patients, protecting our front-line care teams and continuing to prepare for a surge and hot spots of patients across our state. Today's guidance from the state gives a set of standards for all health systems, ambulatory surgery centers and dentists. Health care providers will continue to balance the needs of patients who require surgeries and procedures with the need to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to patients and staff and ensure an adequate supply of PPE and testing capacity for both patients and the health care workforce.

Our top priority remains having the spaces, staff and supplies necessary in our hospitals and health systems to support our workforce and continue to provide high-quality care to all of our patients. We urge Minnesotans to continue to practice diligent social distancing in public and to stay at home whenever possible to protect their and their families' health and reduce the spread of infection to vulnerable populations in our state.

Dr. Rahul Koranne  
President and CEO  
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