

March 15, 2020

Munson Healthcare Postponing Non-Urgent/Elective Surgeries Effective March 16

In accordance with new recommendations from the American College of Surgeons and consistent with our pandemic response plan, **Munson Healthcare is asking providers to cease scheduling and cancel existing all non-urgent/elective surgeries effective March 16.** A non-urgent or elective surgery is defined as any case that may be postponed for two months without harming the patient.

- Oncology patient and inpatient surgeries will receive special consideration
- Urgent and emergency cases will be accommodated per normal practice
- Future cases falling under special consideration may be scheduled more quickly when possible

All surgical providers should assess case load for the next 2 months and communicate schedule changes and questions to local Chief Medical Officer, Chief Surgical Officer, and/or Director or Manager of Surgical Services.

Surgical Services leadership across the Munson Healthcare system is working to contact patients, modify schedules, re-prioritize cases, and reorganize workflow in response to this policy change. We are also working on plans for consolidation of services and relocation of resources as needed.

Munson Healthcare is making these changes for the following reasons:

- Reducing COVID-19 exposure to our patients, providers, and staff
- Conserving medical supplies and personal protective equipment
- Reducing patient risk to COVID-19 for patients with a depressed immune system due to surgery

