Should I reschedule elective surgeries and non-urgent outpatient visits?

Current [CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/healthcare-professionals/index.html) include rescheduling elective surgeries, as necessary, at inpatient facilities and rescheduling non-urgent outpatient visits, as necessary. TMB agrees with the intent and interpretation of these guidelines which is for licensees to **postpone all non-urgent elective surgeries and procedures in inpatient and outpatient settings** to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

What is a non-urgent elective procedure or surgery?

Non-urgent elective cases are being defined as cases where there is no anticipated short-term nor long-term negative impact because of delaying a procedure or surgery. Examples are screening for a chronic condition or most cosmetic procedures.

When can I begin rescheduling non-urgent elective procedures and surgeries?

TMB’s guidance is to follow the CDC’s guidelines until the end of the Governor’s Disaster Declaration or until the CDC guidelines change, whichever is earlier.

What are the benefits to postponing a non-urgent surgery?

Postponement creates several key benefits:
1. It preserves resources such as, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Ventilator availability, and it creates a general reduction in the overall use of critical medical resources;

2. it keeps a bed available for treatment of a COVID-19 patient, especially intensive care unit (ICU) beds;

3. it preserves significant healthcare practitioner time and availability which can be devoted to COVID-19 patients; and

4. it limits patients and health care workers to avoidable potential exposure to COVID-19.