



# Health Alert Network Message 20-25: Healthcare Facility Notice/ Order #2020- COVID19-ALL-010

**Origination Date:**  
*April 22, 2020*

**Revision Dates (list all revision dates):**

## **HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**

April 22, 2020

## **HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE/ORDER NOTICE #2020-COVID19-ALL-010**

Please read the message below which outlines a recent notice that updates information about medical and surgical procedures. This notice is applicable to all licensed healthcare facilities in Louisiana, as well as all healthcare professionals licensed, certified, authorized, or permitted by any board, authority, or commission under LDH.

The Department encourages facilities and healthcare providers to follow LDH and CDC recommendations to reduce exposure to themselves, their staff, and their patient/clients, should in the healthcare provider's professional medical opinion, that an in-person visit is needed.

Please share and distribute this alert concerning the outbreak of COVID-19 with relevant stakeholders and partners through your own distribution channels.

On April 20, LDH issued a Healthcare Facility Notice with updated information on Medical and Surgical Procedures. This notice supersedes the information on three previous Medical and Surgical Procedures Notices:

- #2020-COVID19-ALL-006 dated March 18, 2020
- LDH Notice #2020-COVID19-ALL-007, dated March 21, 2020
- LDH Notice #2020-COVID19- DENTAL PROVIDER-004, dated March 17, 2020.

## **Please see attached official memo and decision-making flowchart.**

The measures ordered in the Notice are in line with the best guidance and direction from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and are designed to limit the spread of the COVID-19, while allowing some medical and surgical procedures to be conducted.

The Department continues to direct that any in-person healthcare services be postponed when patient outcomes would not be compromised, but makes exceptions for the three provider services listed herein: Medical/ Surgical, Dental and Other Healthcare Services.

Providers shall use their best medical judgment within the scope of their license to make the determination as to the conditions outlined below.

#### 1. MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PROCEDURES

The Department hereby directs that any and all medical and surgical procedures **SHALL ONLY** be performed under the following conditions until further notice.

**Emergency Medical Conditions** - Medical and surgical procedures are allowed in order to treat an emergency medical condition defined as a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain, psychiatric disturbances, and/or symptoms of substance abuse) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

- Placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;
- Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- Serious dysfunction of bodily organs.
- Medical and surgical procedures are allowed to avoid further harm from underlying condition or disease.
- Time-Sensitive Medical Conditions:
  - Each patient must undergo an appropriate pre-operative clinical evaluation to minimize the risk that the patient has COVID-19; such clinical evaluation shall include appropriate COVID-19 testing, if available;
  - Each patient is required to comply with strict social distancing measures from the time of the pre-operative clinical evaluation through the day of the surgery;
  - The facility and healthcare provider shall have an adequate and appropriate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to treat the patient, as well as treat any other patient, including COVID positive patients, in the facility. At no time shall a facility's PPE supply to treat a COVID-positive patient fall below a 5-day supply on hand at the facility. The facility shall not be dependent on the state or other governmental body to supply the 5-day requirement;
  - There is an adequate supply chain to the facility/healthcare provider for medical equipment, supplies, and medications;
  - The facility/healthcare provider has adequate medical staff, including surgical, surgical support, recovery, and nursing staff, to meet the needs of all patients;

- The facility/healthcare provider shall conduct constant monitoring of hospital, regional, and state resources, as well as ESF-8 reports, indicating coronavirus burden of disease and impact.

Medical and Surgical Procedures to Treat Time-Sensitive Medical Conditions SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY DISCONTINUED upon notice by the State Health Officer, who may consider any of the following criteria to halt or discontinue medical and surgical procedures to treat time-sensitive medical conditions:

- Statewide or region-wide ventilator capacity;
- Statewide or region-wide ICU bed availability;
- Statewide or region-wide med surg bed availability;
- The number of new admit COVID-19 cases; and
- Any other criteria that the State Health Officer deems appropriate.

**Continued Postponement** – Any medical or surgical procedure in which a delay will not adversely affect the particular patient or the underlying disease process should continue to be postponed.

**Covid-19 Symptoms** – Each facility or healthcare provider that performs any medical or surgical procedure shall be required to contact the patient within 10-14 days after the procedure to determine whether the patient has signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 since the procedure.

- Such contact shall be documented in the patient’s medical record.
- The facility or healthcare provider shall make recommendations to the patient who has signs/symptoms of COVID-19, including appropriate testing.
- The facility or healthcare provider shall immediately inform the Office of Public Health via electronic notification, if any such patient has tested positive for COVID-19.

## 2. DENTAL VISITS, PROCEDURES AND SURGERIES

The Department hereby directs that any and all dental visits, procedures, and surgeries **SHALL ONLY** be performed under the following conditions until further notice.

**Emergency Medical Conditions** – Emergency medical condition is defined as a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain, psychiatric disturbances and/or symptoms of substance abuse) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

- Placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;

- Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- Serious dysfunction of bodily organs.
- Dental procedures are allowed to avoid further harms from underlying condition or disease.
- Dental procedures are allowed to treat time-sensitive conditions

**Covid-19 Symptoms** Each dental facility or dental provider that performs any dental procedure shall be required to contact the patient within 10-14 days after the procedure to determine whether the patient has signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 since the procedure.

- Such contact shall be documented in the patient’s medical record.
- The dental facility or dental provider shall make recommendations to the patient who has signs/symptoms of COVID-19, including appropriate testing.
- The dental facility or dental provider shall immediately inform the Office of Public Health, via electronic notification, if any such patient has tested positive for COVID-19.

Dental procedures to Treat Time-Sensitive Medical Conditions SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY DISCONTINUED upon notice by the State Health Officer, who may consider any of the following criteria to halt or discontinue medical and surgical procedures to treat time-sensitive medical conditions:

- Statewide or region-wide ventilator capacity;
- Statewide or region-wide ICU bed availability;
- Statewide or region-wide med surg bed availability;
- The number of new admit COVID-19 cases; and
- Any other criteria that the State Health Officer deems appropriate.

### 3. HEALTHCARE SERVICES OTHER THAN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PROCEDURES

The Department hereby directs that all healthcare providers offer – when medically appropriate and when the same standard of care can be met – a telehealth mode of delivery, rather than an in-person visit.

- Providers shall make a determination about the appropriateness of telehealth on a case-by-case basis.
- Providers may encounter legitimate and valid barriers to telehealth delivery and may not be able to shift all services to telehealth.
- Providers acting in good faith shall not be found to be in violation of this directive.

**Best medical judgment** – Providers shall consider the entire clinical picture when determining if a service can be safely postponed, including the consequences to the patient of postponement and the consequences to the healthcare system. Providers acting in good faith shall not be found to be in violation of this directive.

**Covid-19 Symptoms** Each facility or healthcare provider that performs any dental procedure shall be required to contact the patient within 10-14 days after the procedure to determine whether the patient has signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 since the procedure.

- Such contact shall be documented in the patient’s medical record.
- The dental facility or dental provider shall make recommendations to the patient who has signs/symptoms of COVID-19, including appropriate testing.
- The dental facility or dental provider shall immediately inform the Office of Public Health, via electronic notification, if any such patient has tested positive for COVID-19.

#### 4. CMS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Recommendations on April 19, 2020, regarding Re-opening Facilities to Provide Non-emergent Non-COVID-19 Healthcare: Phase I. LDH and the State Health Officer recommend that each facility and healthcare provider that performs any other healthcare service (other than a medical or surgical procedure or a dental procedure) comply with these CMS Recommendations, or any subsequent Recommendations or Guidance issued by CMS.