



DATE: May 19, 2020
TO: All MultiCare Leaders, Physicians and APPs
MultiCare Connected Care Providers
FROM: David Carlson, DO, Chief Physician Officer and SVP, Provider Enterprises
SUBJECT: Expansion of Medical Procedures and Services

Yesterday, Governor Jay Inslee presented an updated proclamation regarding the safe expansion of non-urgent medical and dental procedures and services. The proclamation was the result of many hours of work and consultation with the governor by a group of health care leaders co-chaired by MultiCare CEO Bill Robertson and Sally Watkins, PhD, RN, Executive Director of the Washington State Nurses Association.

Based on the guidance and definition in the proclamation, we are pleased to say that MultiCare remains in the Contingency Care Phase, which allows health care organizations to provide the full range of care – emergent, urgent, elective, routine – so long as they have access to sufficient PPE and, in the case of hospitals, can maintain a surge capacity of at least 20%.

MultiCare has met – and continues to meet – both the PPE and surge capacity thresholds. While most of our COVID-19-related policies will remain in effect for the foreseeable future, including visitor restrictions, masking and social distancing in our facilities, we are again able to offer comprehensive acute and preventive care in our hospitals, urgent cares and ambulatory clinics.

We are actively working to reschedule postponed surgeries, procedures and diagnostic testing, and are also encouraging patients to contact us with new health concerns. It is imperative that we help our patients address any health issues, especially those where they may have delayed seeking care.

In all MultiCare facilities, we continue to focus on creating the safest possible care environment for both patients and staff. We are following the highest level of infection prevention and quality standards and the latest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). We have also taken many additional steps, including:

- Screening and masking of all patients, visitors and staff in our hospitals and clinics
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting in all our facilities, particularly high-touch areas
- Arranging facilities and adjusting processes to support social distancing in waiting, reception and admitting areas, cafeterias and other public spaces.

The governor's proclamation also requires each health care organization to develop an expansion/contraction of care plan that will allow us to respond to any future surge in COVID-19 cases or a shortage of PPE. We will closely monitor the availability of staff, space and supplies so we can adjust or limit our services, if necessary, to remain in compliance with the mandate.

We are proud of the collaboration and partnerships we have built with state and local government and other health care organizations across Washington as we helped develop this new guidance. We are hopeful that it will provide a roadmap for both our recovery and the return to health and stability for our patients and the communities we serve.

The full proclamation is attached for reference. If you have any questions or if we can provide any assistance as you engage with your patients, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

David Carlson, DO
Chief Physician Officer & SVP, Provider Enterprises
MultiCare Health System