



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20200806-00462-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
**Thursday, August 6, 2020**  
**SUBJECT:** STATE HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. §§ 41-3-51, 41-3-15 et. seq., 41-23-1 et. seq. and the State of Emergency Declaration by the Governor of the State of Mississippi related to the coronavirus COVID-19 issued on March 14, 2020, I, Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health, hereby issue this Order for the provision of Elective and Non-Urgent Medical Services and Surgery effective August 6, 2020 until September 1, 2020, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

**Inpatient Medical Capacity**

To meet the increasing demands of rising COVID-19 hospitalization, all hospitals with critical care services **must activate surge Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity at this time and maintain a minimum of 10% availability.** In addition, all hospitals must report COVID-19 patient transfers (from ER or inpatient) to Mississippi Med-Com and maintain a minimum of 10% inpatient bed capacity (medical/surgical floor beds). Any hospital that is unable to meet these minimum requirements or unable to admit COVID-19 patients or take COVID-19 patients in transfer for any 2-hour period must delay for the following seven (7) days all:

Elective surgeries in Tier 1 and 2 (from Appendix) that require overnight hospitalization.

Any surgery in Tier 1 or 2 that requires overnight hospitalization that is performed due to extraordinary circumstances must be accompanied by an extensive and compelling justification.

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer  
Mississippi State Department of Health



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**Appendix:**

Tiers	Action	Definition	Locations	Examples
Tier 1a	Postpone surgery/procedure	<b>Low acuity surgery/healthy patient</b> -outpatient surgery Not life-threatening illness	HOPD* ASC** Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	-Carpal tunnel release -EGD -Colonoscopy -Cataracts
Tier 1b	Postpone surgery/procedure	<b>Low acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</b>	HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	-Endoscopies
Tier 2a	Consider postponing surgery/procedure	<b>Intermediate acuity surgery/healthy patient</b> - Not life threatening but potential for future morbidity and mortality. Requires in-hospital stay	HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	-Low risk cancer -Non urgent spine & Ortho: Including hip, knee replacement and elective spine surgery -Stable ureteral colic  -Elective angioplasty
Tier 2b	Postpone surgery/procedure if possible	<b>Intermediate acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</b>	HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	
Tier 3a	Do not postpone	<b>High acuity surgery/healthy patient</b>	Hospital	-Most cancers -Neurosurgery  -Highly symptomatic patients
Tiers 3b	Do not postpone	<b>High acuity surgery/unhealthy patient</b>	Hospital	-Transplants -Trauma -Cardiac w/symptoms -Limb threatening vascular surgery

\*Hospital Outpatient Department \*\* Ambulatory Surgery Center

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-elective-surgery-recommendations.pdf>



***Alerting Message Specification Settings***

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	Mississippi State Department of Health
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	MSHAN-20200806-00462-ALT
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Health Alert
<b>Status (Type):</b>	Actual ( )
<b>Message Type:</b>	Alert
<b>Reference:</b>	MSHAN-00462
<b>Severity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Acknowledgement:</b>	No
<b>Sensitive:</b>	Not Sensitive
<b>Message Expiration:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Urgency:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Delivery Time:</b>	600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT ( <b>ALT=Health Alert</b> , <b>ADV=Health Advisory</b> , <b>UPD=Health Update</b> , <b>MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service</b> )).
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
<b>Health Alert:</b>	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
<b>Health Advisory:</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
<b>Health Update:</b>	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Health Info Service:</b>	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Status (Type):</b>	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



**Message Type:**

Alert: Indicates an original Alert  
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded  
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled  
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property  
Severe: Significant threat to life or property  
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property  
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property  
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content  
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).