

MESSAGE FROM

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In response to the significant spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations in San Antonio, UHS and UT health leadership met yesterday to assess procedural capabilities. Based on this discussion, the following actions will be implemented:

1. We will maintain the current UHS operating room block schedule (adopted on January 1, 2020).
2. Beginning next Friday, June 26, all elective surgeries scheduled for University Hospital ORs that require a postoperative inpatient stay are to be cancelled until further notice. CMS Tier 3a or 3b procedures are excluded and should continue to be performed.
3. New procedures requiring a postoperative inpatient stay, and not meeting CMS 3a or 3b criteria, are not to be scheduled.
4. Outpatient elective procedural cases that do not require an inpatient stay can continue to be scheduled at all three UHS surgical locations (UH, MARC and RBG).
5. Given the uncertainty over how long this local increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations will last, it is not possible to say how long this temporary pause will need to stay in place. We will reassess the situation daily and, as soon as the data indicates it is appropriate, we will resume these cases.

Additionally, to increase inpatient beds for surge capacity, the 3rd floor pre-op and holding areas will start being converted to a temporary inpatient unit.

Thank you for understanding these actions are needed to ensure we can continue to serve our community during this crisis.

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