

ELECTIVE PROCEDURE & TESTING FAQ

Q: Why is Houston Methodist suspending all elective surgeries, procedures and non-urgent diagnostic and ancillary testing?

A: It is our responsibility to keep patient safety our top priority. We are here to serve our community, which needs us more now than ever. After receiving guidance from the U.S. Surgeon General and medical professional organizations, we decided to suspend elective, non-urgent surgeries, procedures and diagnostic and ancillary testing. We did not make this decision lightly. We know this is disruptive, but made this decision for the safety of our staff, physicians and patients.

Q: Which surgeries and procedures are canceled?

A: All elective, non-urgent surgeries and procedures where there are no anticipated short- or long-term negative impacts are canceled. All elective, urgent surgeries and procedures will continue.

Q: Which non-urgent diagnostic and ancillary testing are canceled?

A: Non-urgent diagnostic and ancillary testing include outpatient radiology, physical/occupational therapy, pulmonary sleep lab, asymptomatic cardiac imaging, and routine mammography. All urgent diagnostic and ancillary testing will continue.

Q: Why was I given such short notice of my surgery, procedure or testing postponement?

A: Considering the continually changing COVID-19 response needs in the Houston region, Houston Methodist has been working to allocate resources to reduce the risk of spreading infection among patients and caregivers. At this time, it is in the best interest of our patients and caregivers to delay all elective surgeries, procedures and non-urgent diagnostic and ancillary testing for non-life threatening and non-urgent care so that staff can focus their efforts and resources on our most critical patients.

Q: I was scheduled for an elective surgery, procedure, or non-urgent diagnostic or ancillary testing. What should I do now?

A: All patients scheduled for elective surgeries, procedures, and non-urgent diagnostic and ancillary testing will be contacted directly by Houston Methodist and notified of the cancellation. We will work with you to reschedule your surgery, procedure or testing as soon as possible.

Q: When will my surgery, procedure or testing take place?

A: Your Houston Methodist care provider will make every effort to reschedule your surgery, procedure or testing in a timely manner.

Q: What if I am scheduled for a surgery, procedure or testing for a life-threatening or urgent health matter?

A: The safety, health and well-being of our patients is our top priority. If you are scheduled for a surgery, procedure or testing to treat urgent or life-threatening conditions, the surgery or procedure will take place.

Q: For how long will elective surgeries, procedures and testing be postponed?

A: Houston Methodist will be continually monitoring the situation and will provide updates as circumstances evolve. Please consider these cases to be postponed, not cancelled. As soon as it is safe, we will lift these restrictions.

Q: Who do I call for more information about my scheduled surgery, procedure or testing?

A: Please call your Houston Methodist physician's office with any questions.

For more up-to-date information on the coronavirus, [please click here](#) to visit the CDC website.

