



Stay at Home Order Applicability Regarding Dental, Medical and Surgical Procedures



The Medical Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health have received a number of inquiries about whether or not the previously issued health order is still in place.

As a result of those concerns, ADPH has issued a reminder of the order below:

"The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) reminds medical providers including dentists, physicians, and other medical providers of the current statewide stay-at-home order's applicability to dental, medical and surgical procedures.

In this regard, through close of business on April 30, all such procedures are to be postponed, subject to two exceptions:

Dental, medical, or surgical procedures necessary to treat an emergency medical condition. For purposes of this order, "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 by a person's licensed medical provider to result in placing the health of the person in serious jeopardy or causing serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of bodily organs.

Dental, medical, or surgical procedures necessary to avoid serious harm from an underlying condition or disease, or necessary as part of a patient's ongoing and active treatment.

While ADPH fully respects a physician's clinical judgment as to whether either of these two exceptions apply, it is expected that physicians will make decisions on a case-by-case basis in consideration of each patient's individual circumstances. Decisions that a particular procedure meets one of the exceptions in all cases should be avoided.

Further, this order applies to all settings, i.e., procedures taking place in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and private offices.

At this time, the Department cannot affirmatively state whether this prohibition will be extended beyond April 30."

A group of lawmakers and business leaders advising Gov. Kay Ivey [issued a report today](#) recommending that restaurants and retail stores reopen immediately under special social distancing guidelines. The group, led by Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth and state Rep. Danny Garrett, R-Trussville, outlined the recommendations contained in a report called Reopen Alabama Responsibly. The report doesn't change anything yet, it's only a recommendation.

[Read the Full Report Here](#)

Expiration Date Extension for COVID-19 Emergency



The Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid) has extended all expiration dates previously published in provider ALERTs related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, including [telemedicine](#). The original expiration of April 16, 2020 is extended to April 30, 2020. Further guidance will be provided as necessary.

[See Previous Medicaid Alerts Here](#)

Emergency Fund Disbursements

Since last Friday when HHS [announced](#) it would begin disbursing the first \$30 million of the emergency fund created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to physicians and other providers via direct payment, the AMA has received several questions about how to verify eligibility for payment and who to contact when a physician believes they are eligible but did not receive a payment. HHS partnered with UnitedHealth Group (UHG) to deliver the stimulus payments, and physicians should contact UHG's Provider Relations at 866-569-3522 about eligibility, whether a payment has been issued, and where it was sent. Note, if a physician or practice did not already set up direct deposit through CMS or UHG's Optum Pay, they will receive a check at a later date. Practices that would like to set up direct deposit now can call the UHG Provider Relations number.

In addition, HHS has opened the [CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal](#). Physicians who have been allocated a payment from the initial \$30 billion general distribution must sign an attestation confirming receipt of the funds and agree to the terms and conditions within 30 days of payment. The terms and conditions are listed [here](#).

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Updated Face Mask Guidance



The Alabama Department of Public Health has added updated face mask guidance for healthcare providers. This updated information includes rationale for masking, proper mask

use and storage, and re-use of facemasks.

Proper Mask Use Guidelines



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