

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Reopening of Elective Medical Procedures

Dear Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the organizations listed below, I am writing regarding the resumption of elective medical procedures and to offer our advice and recommendations on how this should be accomplished in the safest manner possible.

Initially, our organizations would like to thank you for your leadership and approach to the entire COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, you released the “Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery”, and we fully support the four building blocks you identified: 1) expanded testing capacity 2) increased hospital surge capacity 3) ramping up supply of PPE, and 4) a robust contact tracing operation. These building blocks, along with the three stages of re-opening you have proposed, espouse a measured and safe plan to re-open the economy while also minimizing the chance of a setback in the spread of this deadly disease.

Elective medical procedures are identified as a possible Stage One activity. The undersigned groups want to ensure that when these procedures resume, it be done safely and effectively, ensuring that health care workers and patients are both protected. We have identified below a representative of each organization that members of your Administration can contact to engage in further discussions on how to properly reopen elective procedures. Our organizations are anxious to help with this effort.

Finally, each group supports using the two attached documents as guiding principles in reopening elective procedures. The first is the “Joint Statement: Roadmap for Resuming Elective Surgery After COVID-19 Pandemic”, written by the American College of Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists, Associate of periOperative Registered Nurses, and the American Hospital Association. It has been used by other states as well. The second document is a checklist compiled by the Maryland Ambulatory Surgery Association.

We would ask that the Task Force you have assembled on COVID-19 and members of your Administration look to these documents as they consider how to safely and effectively resume elective medical procedures. Additionally, as testing plays an important role in ensuring safety for patients and health care workers, we look forward to collaborating with you and your team of experts to identify testing pathways, whether the surgical venue is health system-affiliated or free-standing.

Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Gene Ransom, CEO
MedChi

cc: Robert Neall, Secretary of Health (robert.neall@maryland.gov)
Fran Phillips, Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services (fran.phillips@maryland.gov)
Diane Croghan, Office of the Governor, Deputy Chief of Staff (diane.croghan@maryland.gov)

Contact List

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| MedChi: | Gene Ransom, CEO (gransom@medchi.org) |
| MD Ambulatory Surgery Association: | Andrea Hyatt, CASC, President (ahyatt@fpi.umaryland.edu) |
| MD Society of Anesthesiologists: | Haitham Al Grain, M.D., President (mdsahq@gmail.com ; algrain@jhmi.edu) |
| MD Society of Otolaryngology: | Jonathan Walsh, M.D., President (jwalsh31@jhmi.edu) |
| MD Patient Care and Access Coalition: | Dr. Nick Grosso, President (drnickg@yahoo.com) |
| MD Orthopaedic Association: | Dr. Ashfaq Hasan, President (AHasan@som.umaryland.edu) |