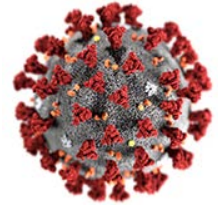




## Hospital Planning Guidance for Providing Care as we Reopen Kansas May 1, 2020



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Kansas health care providers ceased elective and non-emergent procedures to ensure that hospitals could prioritize COVID-19 efforts and provide safe, timely patient care. As we move into a new phase of health care delivery, KHA members remain fully committed to protecting the health and safety of their patients and employees, while continuing to educate the public on measures to stop the spread of COVID-19.

**Reopen Kansas Framework** - On May 4, 2020, Governor Laura Kelly will lift the statewide “Safer at Home” order and allow Kansas communities to begin a phased-in reopening by issuing a [statewide executive order \(EO 20-29\)](#) to begin Phase One of the “Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas”. [Please refer to this guidance](#). Gov. Kelly also extended some additional executive orders that were set to expire, please refer to [EO 20-28](#). The Governor strongly encouraged individuals who may have postponed receiving primary care or who require specialty medical and surgical services not related to COVID-19 to seek necessary care while following safety guidelines issued by each respective medical facility or provider.

**Work Locally** - Kansas will set the regulatory baseline for its counties in each phase of the Plan to Reopen Kansas Framework, allowing counties to modify the plan or impose additional restrictions in the best interest of the health of their respective residents, consistent with the decentralized public health system outlined in Kansas law. For example, if a county determines it is appropriate to impose a local “stay-at-home” order beyond May 4 or impose additional restrictions not outlined in the EO, they are permitted to do so under certain conditions. Hospitals are encouraged to work with their local public health department and county.

**Guidance and Resources for Hospitals and the Health Care Sector** - [Reopening guidance by industry](#) is available online. All sectors should follow the guidelines in “[Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas](#)” as well as these recommendations for employers:

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/248/Business-Employers>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/standards.html>

The state is suggesting the following general guidance for the health care sector:

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/170/Healthcare-Providers>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

A number of additional resources have been developed for hospitals and health care providers regarding re-opening and the provisions of non-emergent and elective procedures. KHA has posted several templates and guidance documents on our [COVID-19 resource page](#). We encourage our members to consult the following resources:

[CMS Recommendations for Re-Opening Facilities: Phase I Guidelines for Opening Up America Again](#)

[AHA Special Bulletin on Re-Opening Health Care](#)

[American College of Surgeons Guidance on Elective Surgeries](#)

**Situational Awareness** - Hospitals should know and understand the data on prevalence of COVID-19 in your community and work with local and state public health officials and other community leaders on local policies and guidance. Hospitals should also understand the testing available in the community and have policies in place for patients and staff.

**Capacity, Resources and Supplies** - Address issues and have plans for local facility capacity, staffing, adequate resources and supplies. Plan for resumption and prioritization of non-emergent and elective procedures in a collaborative manner with input from a cross-section of clinicians and leaders in your organization. Ensure there is an adequate supply of PPE. PPE obtained through the federal strategic national stockpile (SNS) or purchased with Kansas state general funds are to be used only for COVID-19 related activities and cannot be used for elective procedures or normal operations.

**Communications to Patients and the Community** - The new normal will require different ways of doing things as patients come back into your facilities. In order to assure safe care, all health care providers will need to develop and provide specific instructions to patients regarding requirements directed by the governor, their community/county and their organization. KHA recommends clear instructions with supporting information be provided to patients to achieve a high level of compliance and cooperation. Instructions should cover the following topics:

**How COVID-19 Is Spread** - Hospitals should educate patients on how the COVID-19 virus is spread. For example, letting them know it can be spread through coughing, sneezing or talking with someone nearby. A person may be infected with the virus but not be exhibiting any symptoms. It can also be spread through contact with a contaminated surface/object when it is touched prior to touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

**Social Distancing of Six Feet** - Hospitals should educate their patients on how this is being addressed. For example, if you have removed traditional waiting rooms or common seating, or configured your space differently or are having patients wait in their care until called. You might consider informing patients to not arriving early or late for an appointment so the number of patients can be tightly controlled, observing the six feet distance if another patient is encountered when arriving or departing.

**Visitors** - Make sure your patients understand the visitation policies you have put in place.

**Screenings** - Make sure your patients understand the screening and isolation protocols your hospital has put into place, such as temperature checks, COVID-19 testing prior to anesthesia and aerosolizing procedures and or self-isolation before surgeries.

**Masks** - Patients should be told about the policies you are following for masks - both for staff and for the patients they are serving. For example, will all staff be wearing procedural masks and PPE, will all patients and visitors be required to wear a mask?

**Sanitation** - Remind patients that your staff will clean surfaces and instruments between patients and that their safety is your number one priority.

**Handwashing** - Patients should wash hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand rub. Make sure patients understand any specific requirements such as washing hands/using sanitizer before entry.

**COVID-19 Testing** - If patients are undergoing procedures, are you recommending a negative COVID-19 test be done within 72 hours prior to the procedure? If so, and test is greater than 72 hours prior to procedure, patients must agree to self-isolate between the test and the procedure. Test cannot be greater than 96 hours prior to procedure.