RESPONSE TO COVID-19
March 19, 2020  (submitted electronically to the Governor of Oregon)

State and hospital modeling predict a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases that will require hospital care. The health care system must prepare to care for a surge of COVID-19 patients. In addition to an expected surge in patients, there is currently a critical shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) which must be prioritized for health care providers taking care of patients with COVID-19. Despite this, health care providers must continue to deliver vital services to members of the community who need other types of care.

Cancellation of Elective and Non-Urgent Procedures to Preserve Personal Protective Equipment, hospital capacity and maintain social distancing

Effective immediately and until repeal of this order, all hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, dental clinics, veterinary clinics, outpatient clinics or any other provider that utilize personal protective equipment in Oregon must immediately cancel procedures and surgeries that, if delayed, will not put patients at risk for harm within the next three months.

Hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, dental clinics, veterinary clinics, and outpatient clinic providers must, as resources allow, continue to provide urgent and emergency procedures as it is safe to do so, prioritizing care that if delayed could in the next three months negatively affect the patient’s health outcome, harm the patient, or lead to disability or death.