March 23, 2020

Health Care Professionals and Facilities, Including Abortion Providers, Must Immediately Stop All Medically Unnecessary Surgeries and Procedures to Preserve Resources to Fight COVID-19 Pandemic

SHARE THIS: 14 14 Share

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton today warned all licensed health care professionals and all licensed health care facilities, including abortion providers, that, pursuant to Executive Order GA 09 issued by Gov. Greg Abbott, they must postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately medically necessary.

On Saturday, Gov. Abbott issued an executive order that “all licensed health care professionals and all licensed health care facilities shall postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of, a patient who without immediate performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse medical consequences or death, as determined by the patient’s physician.” This prohibition applies throughout the State and to all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately medically necessary, including routine dermatological, ophthalmological, and dental procedures, as well as most scheduled healthcare procedures that are not immediately medically necessary such as orthopedic surgeries or any type of abortion that is not medically necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased demands for hospital beds and has created a shortage of personal protective equipment needed to protect health care professionals and stop transmission of the virus. Postponing surgeries and procedures that are not immediately medically necessary will ensure that hospital beds are available for those suffering from COVID-19 and that PPEs are available for health care professionals. Failure to comply with an executive order issued by the governor related to the COVID-19 disaster can result in penalties of up to $1,000 or 180 days of jail time.

“We must work together as Texans to stop the spread of COVID-19 and ensure that our health care professionals and facilities have all the resources they need to fight the virus at this time,” said Attorney General Paxton. “No one is exempt from the governor’s executive order on medically

unnecessary surgeries and procedures, including abortion providers. Those who violate the governor's order will be met with the full force of the law."

For information on the spread or treatment of Coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit the Texas Department of State Health Services (https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/) website.

Receive email updates from the OAG Press Office:

Yo

Submit

Related News

AG Paxton: Retail Supply Chains Will Be Held Liable for Price Gouging (/news/releases/ag-paxton-retail-supply-chains-will-be-held-liable-price-gouging)

March 21, 2020

The Office of the Attorney General's Child Support Division Transitions to Virtual Services in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) (/news/releases/office-attorney-generals-child-support-division-transitions-virtual-services-response-coronavirus)

March 17, 2020

CONSUMER ALERT: AG Paxton Reminds Texans to

Be Aware of Cyber Scams During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency (/news/releases/consumer-alert-ag-paxton-reminds-texans-be-aware-cyber-scams-during-coronavirus-covid-19-emergency)

March 17, 2020

Governor's Office Clears Path for Governmental Bodies to Meet Telephonically or by Videoconference During Coronavirus Disaster (/news/releases/governors-office-clears-path-governmental-bodies-meet-telephonically-or-videoconference-during)

March 16, 2020

See all News (/news)

Back to Top

(/)

(https://twitter.com/TXAG)

(https://www.facebook.com/TexasAttorneyGenera

PO Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

Child Support (/child-support)

Crime Victims (/crime-victims)

Consumer Protection (/consumer-protection)

Open Government (/open-government)

All Divisions (/divisions)

Opinions (/attorney-general-opinions)

Initiatives (/initiatives)

Human Resources (/careers)

Where the Money Goes (https://comptroller.texas.gov/t

ADA Compliance (/ada-compliance)

Compact With Texans (/about-office/compact-texans)

Cost Efficiency Saving Ideas (/about-office/cost-efficiency-saving-ideas)

Reporting Fraud (/about-office/reporting-fraud-state-government)

State Agency Contracts (https://oagtx.force.com/contra

TRAILS Search (https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/trai

Texas Homeland Security (https://gov.texas.gov/organiza

Texas Veterans Portal (https://veterans.portal.texas.g

Texas.gov (http://www.texas.gov/)

Accessibility & Site Policies (/site-policies)