

Country	Status of Elective Procedures
<p>Colombia</p> <p>María Helena Castillo Mcastil8@its.jnj.com</p> <p>Nicolas Medellin nmedelli@ITS.JNJ.com</p>	<p>Official guidance to delay elective procedures? <i>Yes, started with the sanitary emergency declaration by the government in order to mitigate the contagious of Covid-19 in the country.</i></p> <p>Official guidance on reopen elective procedures? <i>MoH: started early May</i> <i>Reactivate postponed surgical procedures due to mandatory preventive isolation and scheduling of other surgical procedures, considering:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emphasis on outpatient surgery o Surgery with low risk of ICU admission.</i> • <i>Short hospital surgeries (less than three days)</i> • <i>Priority in a clinical situation (surgeries that do not pose a risk should continue to be deferred)</i> • <i>Willingness of the person to perform the procedure</i> • <i>Each provider must carry out a prior evaluation of the clinical conditions of patients who are candidates for reactivated surgical procedures</i> • <i>Implement strategies to minimize hospital stay and early discharge with post-surgical follow-up with care modalities such as home and telemedicine</i> <p><i>On July, the Ministry of Health published the “Guidelines for the restoration of health services in the mitigation and control phases of the health emergency by Covid-19 in Colombia (version 3), with the purpose of guiding health service providers and EAPB (payers) to reopen their services, guaranteeing the implementation of biosafety protocols in their institutions.</i></p> <p>Stage of elective procedures recovery? <i>Elective surgery services are being opened in some regions in the country, where the use of ICU rooms or hospitalization is not required as much as possible.</i> <i>Healthcare Institutions in different regions will be opening elective surgeries according to their local guidelines and apply their own protocols.</i></p> <p><u><i>The current situation in some main cities in Colombia has forced local governments to maintain priority of attention to Covid-19 patients, generating a delay in the reopening of health services and elective surgeries. However, a slow but progressive recovery of attention of health services in healthcare institutions is perceived, others than Covid-19.</i></u></p>

<p>México</p> <p>Octavio Avendaño oavendan@its.jnj.com</p> <p>Adriana Obregón AObregon@ITS.JNJ.com</p>	<p>Official guidance to delay elective procedures?</p> <p><i>No. Nor the MoH or the 32 states health authorities have issued an official guidance, but effectively most elective surgeries have been delayed and, in the case of public hospitals that are Covid hospitals, elective surgeries are not allowed.</i></p> <p><i>To depressurize public hospitals, on April 8th the MoH announced a collaboration plan with a network of 250 private hospitals (with 3,175 available beds) to expand medical attention capacity for non Covid patients of the public sector for the following procedures: delivery, pregnancy and postpartum care; caesarean sections; appendix diseases; complicated hernias; complicated gastric and duodenal ulcers, and endoscopies. This allowed the public sector hospitals to focus on Covid attention and emergencies. The agreement can be found in https://www.hospitalesxmexico.com/ and came into force first from April 23rd to May 23rd, but was extended until July 23rd. There has not been an announcement on whether the Agreement will be extended but it is expected that the agreement will be maintained until the number of Covid cases in Mexico decreases significantly.</i></p> <p><i>However, in the private sector, most of the hospitals have set their own guidance for elective procedures and only in case an emergency allowed them to do so. Each patient must begin their pre-acceptance 48 hours in advanced with a general review by a doctor, who is not his main physician, a COVID19 test and a thorax X-RAY.</i></p> <p>Official guidance on reopen elective procedures?</p> <p><i>There is no federal or state guideline for the resumption. Nonetheless, private hospitals have launched their own communication campaign through digital media regarding the sanitizing measures they are taking in order to convince patients to go back to hospitals for elective procedures.</i></p> <p><i>On the other hand, Medical Devices Mexican Association (AMID), along with the Mexican Association of Pharmaceutical Investigation (AMIIF), the Pharmaceutical Chamber (CANIFARMA), and the Mexican Hospitals Network, presented a Protocol for the safe returning of medical representatives to healthcare facilities.</i></p> <p>Stage of elective procedures recovery?</p> <p><i>Yet to start. It is expected that the impact of Covid across the country has recorded a drop of 80 to 90% on elective surgeries. Nonetheless states like Mexico City has begun to decrease the number of Covid hospitals and reconverted them to regular hospitals to start a stage of recovery. Hospitals like Xoco or Balbuena are back to general hospitals.</i></p>
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<p>Chile</p> <p>Luz Sosa LSosaLei@its.jnj.com</p>	<p>Official guidance to delay elective procedures?</p> <p><i>Yes. Resolution 591 of 25 July established that elective surgeries whose delay does not pose a serious risk to the health of the patient should be postponed, except for those that meet any of the following conditions: Are major outpatient surgeries, are surgeries whose expected hospitalization does not exceed one night.</i></p> <p><i>The duration of this measure is indefinite in nature until epidemiological conditions allow its suspension.</i></p> <p>Link attached</p> <p>Official guidance on reopen elective procedures?</p> <p><i>Yes. Resolution 640 of August 11, 2020 eliminates the postponement of elective surgeries established by Resolution 591.</i></p> <p>Link attached</p> <p>Stage of elective procedures recovery?</p> <p><i>Elective surgery is starting to recover slowly in some regions in the country, due to a decrease in COVID cases. Hospitals are reducing critical beds to resume care for non-Covid diseases and reactivate postponed surgeries due to the pandemic.</i></p>
<p>Argentina</p> <p>Sebastian Parigi sparigi@ITS.JNJ.com</p>	<p>Official guidance to delay elective procedures?</p> <p><i>MoH published a recommendation to suspend scheduled surgeries. Also, the medical associations had their own recommendations</i></p> <p>Official guidance on reopen elective procedures?</p> <p><i>No national guideline. Different trade associations are working on protocols to present to the government to be adopted.</i></p> <p>Stage of elective procedures recovery?</p> <p><i>Is expected the MoH to change recommendations.</i></p> <p>No additional updates</p>
<p>Brazil</p> <p>Totino, Andre [JANBR] avieir19@ITS.JNJ.com</p> <p>Yuba, Tania [MEDBR] TYuba@ITS.JNJ.com</p>	<p>Official guidance to delay elective procedures?</p> <p>Suspends all elective surgical procedures of medium and high complexity (<i>shortages of anesthetic drugs and neuromuscular blockers</i>), some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Santa Catarina suspended until August 30, all elective surgeries (which are not urgent) of medium and high complexity

that require general anesthesia. The procedures were already suspended in the State from a decree that was valid until 29th July. The measure does not affect procedures performed with local anesthesia.

- The [Regional Council of Medicine of Piauí \(CRM-PI\)](#) issued, in 24th July, a new recommendation for doctors to suspend elective surgeries in public hospitals in the state. The suspension would be due to the low stock or even the lack of sedatives and painkillers, also used in the treatment of patients with Covid-19. Medicines are widely used in surgical centers and intensive care units (ICUs).

- The [State Department of Health \(Sesa\) of Paraná](#) temporarily suspended elective outpatient and hospital surgeries in all hospitals in the state. The objective is to avoid the use of anesthetic drugs and muscle relaxants, used in the treatment of severe cases of covid-19.

- To guarantee and focus efforts on urgent and emergency care in the entire public health network of the [Federal District \(DF\)](#) amid the pandemic of the new coronavirus, the Department of Health has again extended the suspension of elective surgeries until the August 23rd. The measure was taken while the DF goes through the peak of the pandemic. The exception remains for cancer, cardiovascular and transplant procedures, which will continue to be done normally.

Official guidance on reopen elective procedures?

- Technical Note published by the [Secretary of Health of Bahia](#) to guide the Health Units of the State in relation to the return of ambulatory and surgical activities that have been suspended as a measure to control the epidemic process of COVID-19 in the State.
- A Technical Note published by the [Secretary of Health of Ceara](#), the objective of presenting guidelines for the resumption of responsibility for elective surgeries, adopting measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to patients and service professionals, guaranteeing the resolution of the repressed demand and routine.
- A technical note published by the [Secretary of Health of Espírito Santo](#), with recommendations for measures for the prevention of the transmission of COVID-19 for the performance of elective surgeries.

Stage of elective procedures recovery?

There is no official data on the resumption of elective surgeries in the country, but it is observed that this resumption is following the pace of the decrease in new cases of COVID-19 identified by region, therefore with variations within the country. The situation observed in terms of the

	number of COVID-19 cases this week was: (1) Increase in cases: DF, AM and BA. (2) In stability, that is, the number of deaths did not fall or rise significantly: SC, ES, MG, RJ, SP, GO, MS, PA, TO and PB. (3) In falling cases: PR, RS, MT, AC, AP, RR, AL, CE, MA, PE, PI, RN and SE.
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** For general questions per this document, reach out to Sergio Pompilio at pompilio@its.jnj.com*