



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Andy Beshear
Governor

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April 27, 2020

On March 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear signed Executive Order 2020-215 declaring a state of emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, a public health emergency.

On March 23, 2020, the Cabinet for Families and Children issued an order stating that all non-emergent and non-urgent in person medical, surgical, dental and any other healthcare practice or procedure must have ceased by close of business on March 18, 2020.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority in KRS Chapter 39A, KRS 194A.025, KRS 214.020 and Executive Order 2020-215 the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Department for Public Health states that the directive of March 23, 2020 is hereby modified as follows:


- 1. As of April 27, 2020 all non-urgent and non-emergent healthcare services, diagnostic radiology and laboratory services may resume in the following practice areas:**
 - a. Hospital outpatient settings;**
 - b. Healthcare clinics and medical offices;**
 - c. Physical therapy settings and chiropractic offices;**
 - d. Optometrists;**
 - e. Dental offices (with enhanced aerosol protections);**
- 2. Non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries and invasive procedures are explicitly excluded from this revised order and will be addressed in a subsequent order;**
- 3. All providers must eliminate traditional waiting/common seating areas and utilize non-traditional alternatives (e.g., call ahead registration; waiting in car until called).**
- 4. Social distancing requirements must be strictly maintained in all settings where people must wait in order to minimize direct contact between individuals within the healthcare setting;**

5. **All healthcare workers, patients and others must be screened for temperature and COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival for shift or visit. STAFF MUST STAY HOME IF SICK;**
6. **All providers must plan for and ensure enhanced workplace sanitizing and disinfecting;**
7. **All providers must plan for and ensure enhanced hand hygiene compliance (e.g. regular handwashing schedule, use of sanitizer before and after patient contact, hand sanitizer stations throughout the office/facility);**
8. **All healthcare providers and staff MUST wear surgical/procedural masks while in healthcare office/facility when in contact with patients and/or staff;**
9. **All patients and other persons in a healthcare office/facility must wear either a surgical /procedural mask or cloth mask/face covering when in contact with patients and/or staff;**
10. **In high-touch clinical settings (e.g., physical therapy, chiropractic care) healthcare workers directly manipulating the patient must wear single-use non-latex gloves when manipulating the patient in addition to enhanced hand hygiene compliance; any objects and contact surfaces used for clinical services must be sanitized and disinfected between patients. All necessary steps must be taken to reduce body to body contact (e.g., PPE gown, cloth barrier, technique selection);**
11. **In high aerosol risk outpatient settings (e.g., dentistry, oral surgery, anesthesia, pulmonary services) all providers must wear appropriate PPE and strictly adhere to the aerosol mitigation and control measures proposed by their specific professional associations;**
12. **Each healthcare setting must be MUST be able to procure all necessary PPE for routine services via normal supply chains;**
13. **No visitors are allowed to any healthcare facility/office except when necessary for end of life, assisting vulnerable populations and caring for minor children. When visitors are allowed, they should only be for a limited time with social distancing requirements strictly enforced. All visitors must be screened in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 4 above;**
14. **The Commonwealth of Kentucky relies upon licensed healthcare professionals within the state to exercise these directives;**
15. **All healthcare professionals should check <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work> regularly for updates and posted guidance from their individual professional organizations and associations;**
16. **Under all circumstances where clinically possible, use of telephonic or video communication to provide telemedicine services is strongly urged. Medicare and Medicaid have WAIVED¹ typical telemedicine and HIPAA requirements and you may even use non-HIPAA compliant video services such as FaceTime, Skype, and others during the current state of emergency.**

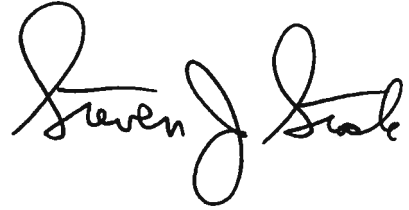
¹ See <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/Documents/ProviderTelehealth%20FAQs%203-19-2020.pdf> and <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/president-trump-expands-telehealth-benefits-medicare-beneficiaries-during-covid-19-outbreak>.

The Secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has been designated by the Governor to deliver these directives during this public health emergency.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will continue to provide information and updates to healthcare providers during the duration of this Public Health Emergency.



Eric Friedlander
Acting Secretary
Governor's Designee



Dr. Steven J. Stack
Commissioner