

COVID-19 update

25 March 2020

The ACT Government announced today they are implementing further changes to ACT's health services to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. These changes are to ensure health services are well resourced and staffed to respond to the pandemic.

What these service changes mean

From Thursday 26 March, Canberra Health Services (CHS) will reduce some non-essential and non urgent services in the following areas:

- Elective surgeries
- Community based services
- Medical outpatients, procedures and treatments.

Community based services, medical outpatients, procedures and treatments

CHS will contact patients whose appointment or treatments are affected. No patient will lose their spot on the wait list as a result of these actions.

If you have not been contacted, please attend as planned. If you wish to cancel your appointment, please call Central Health Intake (5124 9977) or use the on-line cancellation form at <https://bit.ly/3abpSSI>.

If attending a CHS location, please come alone unless you need someone to help you. Do not come:

- If you have been overseas in the last 14 days or you have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- If you have symptoms including fever, cough, cold, flu or diarrhoea.

Elective surgery

All patients on the elective surgery waitlist are being clinically reviewed to ensure the most urgent surgery is prioritised.

Patients whose elective surgery has been confirmed and booked will be contacted individually and advised. These patients will remain on the elective surgery waitlist.

These are very difficult decisions to make and we know there are many Canberrans who will be impacted. This is an overwhelming time for people, particularly those with health concerns. We thank the community for their understanding and patience during this challenging period.

Visitor access

CHS has already tightened visitor restrictions to **one visitor per patient allowed on each site per day**. These restrictions are likely to be further tightened this week in line with Stage 2 of our COVID-19 response plan, and we will keep you updated.

We'll be marking up the floors of all our public lifts in respect to current social distancing guidelines.