



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
**Department for Community Based Services**  
**Office of the Commissioner**

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

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**Eric C. Friedlander**  
Acting Secretary

**Steven Stack MD**  
Commissioner  
Public Health

March 18, 2020

On March 6, 2020 the 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 14, 2020 Governor Beshear recommended that Kentucky hospitals cease performing elective procedures on March 18, 2020. Therefore, pursuant to the authority in KRS 194A.025, KRS 214.020 and Executive Order 2020-215 the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Public Health states that the following directives are in effect during the this state of emergency:

**Based upon the predicted surge of COVID-19 patients and the medical resources that will be required to treat them healthcare providers in the Commonwealth are hereby directed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Public Health to cancel all procedures that in the opinion of a physician the delay will not cause harm to the patient or negatively affect the patient's life expectancy. This directive takes effect at midnight March 18, 2020 and will include all levels of care.**

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.

Sincerely,

Eric Friedlander  
Acting Secretary  
Governor's Designee

Dr. Steven J. Stack  
Commissioner  
Public Health