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# **Elective surgery settings**

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| Updated – 6 January 2022  |
| **Applicable services** | **Start date** | **Setting (see key definitions)** |
| Private hospitals and day procedure centres in metropolitan MelbournePrivate hospitals in Geelong | 6 January 2022\* | Elective surgery is restricted to urgent elective surgery procedures, including Category 1 admissions. Urgent elective surgery is where admission within 30 days is clinically indicated for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it might become an emergency. This includes cancer screening and surveillance. Non-urgent elective surgery (including Category 2 and Category 3 admissions) and non-urgent medical admissions (such as sleep studies) are temporarily postponed. Cases should not be reclassified unless clinically indicated.Private hospitals and day procedure centres must:* agree arrangements with public health services to support the COVID-19 pandemic response. To support implementation, planning and load sharing, each Health Service Partnership will write to impacted private hospitals and day procedure centres as well as the Department of Health outlining required resources from private hospitals and day procedures centres for the upcoming week—noting that changes may be required in response to demand;
* assist public health services operating COVID streaming sites to ensure urgent public patients waiting for elective surgery are treated within clinically recommended times; and
* report to the Department of Health weekly on arrangements to comply with this notice.

Restrictions do not apply to emergency surgery completed by private hospitals and day procedure centres. In vitro fertilisation (IVF) may be performed when required: (i) to complete a cycle of IVF treatment that a patient commenced prior to 6 January 2022; or (ii) for a future IVF procedure that is required due to health treatment that a patient will be receiving which will render their eggs non-viable. |
| Private hospitals in Ballarat, Shepparton, Bendigo and the Latrobe Valley (excludes day procedure centres) |

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| Public health services in metropolitan Melbourne operating COVID streaming sites and Barwon Health | 6 January 2022\* | Elective surgery is restricted to urgent elective surgery procedures, including Category 1 admissions. Non-urgent elective surgery is temporarily postponed. This includes Category 2 and Category 3 elective surgery patients, and non-urgent non-ESIS procedures.To support implementation, planning and load sharing, each Health Service Partnership will write to impacted private hospitals and day procedure centres as well as the Department of Health outlining required resources from private hospitals and day procedures centres for the upcoming week—noting that changes may be required in response to demand. |

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| Public health services in metropolitan Melbourne not operating COVID streaming sites | 6 January 2022\* | Elective surgery is restricted to urgent elective surgery procedures, including Category 1 admissions. Non-urgent elective surgery is temporarily postponed. This includes Category 2 and Category 3 elective surgery patients, and non-urgent, non-ESIS procedures.Cases should not be reclassified unless clinically indicated.Public health services in metropolitan Melbourne not operating COVID streaming sites must provide required capacity to support the COVID-19 pandemic response, including to public health services operating COVID streaming sites. |

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| Ballarat Health Service campus of Grampians Health, Goulburn Valley Health, Bendigo Health, Latrobe Regional Hospital | 6 January 2022\* | Elective surgery is restricted to urgent elective surgery procedures, including Category 1 admissions. Non-urgent elective surgery is temporarily postponed. This includes Category 2 and Category 3 elective surgery patients, and non-urgent, non-ESIS procedures.Cases should not be reclassified unless clinically indicated.To support implementation, planning and load sharing, each Health Service Partnership will write to impacted private hospitals and day procedure centres as well as the Department of Health outlining required resources from private hospitals and day procedures centres for the upcoming week—noting that changes may be required in response to demand. |

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| Public hospitals not currently operating COVID streaming sites in rural and regional Victoria | 1 October 2021 | At an operational level, health services can choose to reduce elective surgery, if deemed necessary due to local challenges associated with the pandemic. Health services who intend to reduce elective surgery must contact and advise the department as a matter of urgency.For health services whom which this applies, the expectation is that Category 2 and 3 surgery should be reduced in the first instance. |

**\* NOTES:**

1. Pre-planned elective surgery (procedures already arranged before this announcement) scheduled for admission on the 6 January 2022 and 7 January 2022 inclusive, may occur where it is not safe and/or logistically possible to postpone.

**Key definitions**

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| **Urgent elective surgery** | * a procedure that is clinically indicated within 30 days and where the patient's condition has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point where the patient's condition may become an emergency; or
* urgent non-ESIS procedures and procedures undertaken for the purposes of cancer diagnosis and early or overdue cancer surveillance (see note below)
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| **Category 1 elective surgery procedure** | * means a procedure that is clinically indicated within 30 days and where the patient's condition has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point where the patient's condition may become an emergency
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| **Category 2 elective surgery procedure** | * means a procedure that is clinically indicated within 90 days and is unlikely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency during that period
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| **Category 3 elective surgery procedure** | * means a procedure that is clinically indicated within 365 days but is unlikely to deteriorate quickly
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| **Non-urgent non-ESIS (Elective Surgery Information System) procedure** | * means a non-time critical procedure that is not reported via ESIS (the Elective Surgery Information System) where the patient's condition is unlikely to deteriorate quickly
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Note: This includes colonoscopy for a positive faecal occult blood test (FOBT) screening test and colonoscopy screening for a strong family history with first degree relative < 55 years.

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