Memorandum

To: OPCA Members

From: Danielle Sobel, OPCA Policy and Governmental Affairs Senior Director

Date: March 20, 2020

Re: Gov. Kate Brown Executive Order to Preserve Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Limit Non-Urgent Procedures

As you may be aware, Gov. Kate Brown released Executive Order No. 20-10 late Wednesday, March 18, which calls for the conservation of PPE and postpones non-urgent procedures. OPCA’s Policy Team met by phone with the governor’s staff on Thursday, March 19, to seek clarity around the intent of this executive order and express concerns about any unintended consequences of this order. Based on that conversation, we would like to share the following to help you understand how to best comply with this order:

1. This Executive Order does not override health care clinician’s judgement or direct how health care should be delivered. The governor’s office is trusting your clinical judgement and not attempting to be punitive.

2. The intent of this executive order is as follows:
   a) to conserve PPE, and
   b) practice social distancing in a clinical setting, to the extent possible.

So, what does this mean in practice at your health center?
“Non-urgent procedures” that would normally utilize PPE must be postponed or cancelled effective March 23, 2020, unless the condition that is being treated cannot wait 3 months (order lifts on June 15, 2020). The goal, as stated above, is to conserve the use of any PPE that would be utilized in these procedures. If your health center does need to see a patient face to face, please use the following questions to assess if this visit will use PPE, and, using your clinical judgement, move forward accordingly. As always, it is best practice to document your process and logic in the patient’s chart.

1. Ask yourself if this can be done via a telehealth visit and,
2. If not, ask yourself what PPE is necessary for the safety of yourself and the patient when in-office and use that PPE.
3. Based on your available PPE, evaluate your ability to share remaining PPE with hospital system partners and/or the state*. 

*Per the executive order, any surplus PPE should be made available to the state by Friday, March 27, 2020.

Please send questions or concerns around this to OPCA’s Policy Team at policyteam@orpca.org