



News Release

**FORT CARSON
Public Affairs Office**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Service Announcement **EACH resumes limited, elective surgery**

FORT CARSON, Colo. – Evans Army Community Hospital (EACH) resumed limited, outpatient elective surgery for all beneficiaries at Fort Carson today.

This includes active-duty service members and their families, retirees, and Reserve and National Guard service members on active duty or a delayed effective date active-duty order.

The Department of Defense previously announced all military treatment facilities would postpone elective surgeries and procedures for 60 days as of March 31, 2020.

Elective surgeries and procedures are those that are not emergent or urgent and can be rescheduled at a later date. Some examples include laser surgeries, vasectomies, non-emergent back surgery and colonoscopies.

“We will continue to prioritize readiness and medically-necessary cases,” said Lt. Col. Molly Williams, chief, Department of Surgery at EACH. “We are still focusing on cases that need to be done within the next three months to avoid negative impact on the patient’s overall health or function.”

This includes surgery for cancer patients and orthopedic surgery where a patient may lose function of a joint or limb.

Inpatient elective surgery, or surgery that requires an overnight stay, is not available while Fort Carson is at HPCON Charlie. When Fort Carson is at HPCON Bravo, EACH leadership will assess resuming inpatient elective surgery.

While the team is working gradually toward pre-pandemic operations, safety remains paramount to ensure patients and staff avoid COVID-19. This includes observing COVID-19 precautions, such as social distancing, throughout the department and waiting areas.

Also, at least 24 hours prior to surgery, patients will be tested for COVID-19 at EACH.

Patients who had their surgery postponed will be contacted by a team member to reschedule their surgery and discuss safety precautions. Patients with questions about their surgery should contact their surgeon or respective clinic.

For more information contact the Fort Carson Public Affairs Office at (719) 526-7525. After hours, please contact the 24-hour Fort Carson Operations Center at 526-5500 and ask for the On-Call Public Affairs Officer.