

January 13, 2020

Dear Physicians and Providers,

On behalf of Mary Bridge Children's Hospital & Health Network, we would like to thank all of you for your outstanding dedication and commitment to caring for children in our communities. As you may be aware, Mary Bridge worked in tandem with Seattle Children's Hospital during the month of December to accept urgent surgical transfers while Seattle Children's closed its operating rooms to install a new HVAC and air filtration system.

**We want to update you that Seattle Children's will need to close its operating rooms for a second two-week period beginning on January 18th.** This will allow for commissioning of the new air handling system.

Seattle Children's anticipates this closure to last two weeks with the ORs reopening in early February. The construction and installation of the HEPA filters continues and should be complete by mid- to late-February. At that time, 13 of the 14 ORs will have in-room HEPA filtration systems. They plan to install an in-room HEPA filtration system in the final OR after the reopening.

Seattle Children's leaders shared with us that they will not start scheduling non-urgent surgeries until they have a full go-live date (anticipated for late February).

We at Mary Bridge have always had the highest level of respect and admiration for Seattle Children's Hospital and have enjoyed a long history of collaboration to serve our Pacific Northwest children. The situation facing Seattle Children's affects access to surgery for all children in the region and we are ready and willing to do our part to ensure that access is maintained through this difficult period.

The surgeries will be predominantly general and orthopedic cases, along with four to five heart surgery cases per week as part of the ongoing Mary Bridge – Seattle Children's heart surgery partnership. To ensure that Mary Bridge can effectively meet this second surge period, changes implemented in December will continue in place, including:

- **Acute surgical referrals** will be coordinated through the Mary Bridge Transfer Center at **855-647-1010**. **Routine referrals** continue to go through **253-864-3939**. Please see [marybridge.org/refer](http://marybridge.org/refer) for the complete list of clinic phone numbers.
- Mary Bridge will increase Registered Nurse staffing in Medical/Surgical, PICU and perioperative services to meet staffing requirements for maximum capacity, as well as increase anesthesia coverage and Respiratory and Pharmacy staffing. Other considerations are:
  - ◆ Ensure adequate staffing for Saturday and Sunday surgical operations
  - ◆ Increasing environmental services staffing to ensure quick and quality room turnover
- Tony Escobar, MD, will partner with Seattle Children's Surgical Chief to lead the surgical decision-making during the surge period;
- Five Seattle Children's general surgeons will be credentialed to perform surgeries in collaboration with Mary Bridge general surgeons, with additional surgeons added as necessary.

Thank you very much for all that you do for our regions kids and your partnership with Mary Bridge Children's.

We will continue to keep you informed of the surgical surge as it moves forward.

Sincerely,



Jeff Poltawsky  
President  
Mary Bridge Children's Hospital & Health Network



David Bachman, MD  
Chief Medical & Quality Officer  
Mary Bridge Children's Hospital & Health Network