



## Legal/Corporate Services

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VIA MAIL

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information under Part 2 of  
Access to Information Act and Protection of Privacy Act:  
(2317)

On June 24, 2020, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority received your request for access to the following records:

**2020-089-324317**

Please provide documentation on the number of cancelled or postponed surgeries, health procedures and consultations due to COVID-19. Please be sure to provide any other documentation related to the impact on health care waiting lists due to COVID-19 (and postponed/cancelled health procedures, surgeries, consultations, etc.)”

On July 24, 2020, we advised that your request was extended for an additional 30 days.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted in full.

The table below represents the estimated drop in activity within the Surgery Program of the Winnipeg Health Region (including Health Sciences Centre). For comparison, the activity is presented in both surgical slates and surgical cases.

A surgical slate is the daily schedule for an operating room theatre. There may be as few as one patient, or many patients scheduled on a single slate, based on the type/duration of procedures scheduled by the surgeon’s office. Often these schedules are made only a short time in advance of the scheduled date based on the nature of the procedure, and more urgent patients being identified.

As elective surgical slates were canceled due to the COVID-19 related slowdown of non-urgent activity, a precise number of case cancelations cannot be provided. Many of these slates were canceled prior to patients being booked into them. Rather, we can look at a similar time period in the previous year to estimate the number of cases that were not completed.

Estimated COVID-19 Related Slowdown – 2020 vs 2019

All WRHA sites, including HSC	Surgical Slates (i.e. Operating Room Days)			Surgical Cases		
	Mar 25 - May 26, 2019	Mar 23 - May 24, 2020	Difference	Mar 25 - May 26, 2019	Mar 23 - May 24, 2020	Difference
Estimate*	2294	1127	-1167 (-51%)	11386	4657	-6729 (-59%)

\*An estimate of surgical case deferrals/cancelations is provided as per above. Of note, in 2019 the Government of Manitoba funded an additional 2000 cataract procedures (completed at Misericordia Health Centre), and an additional 1000 Hip/Knee arthroplasty procedures (completed at Concordia Hospital, Grace Hospital, and Health Sciences Centre). A portion of these additional volumes would have been completed during the comparison period of 2019, likely accounting for approximately 250 cases.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Von Schindler, Access and Privacy Coordinator, at 19<sup>th</sup> Floor – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8 (204) 926-7049.

Sincerely,

Christina Von Schindler  
Access and Privacy Coordinator

CVS/tdr