

July 23, 2020

Dear Mr. Bassett:

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act  
(Southern Health-Santé Sud File 025-20)**

On June 24, 2020, Southern Health-Santé Sud received your application for the following:

*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.).*

Further to your conversation with Lee Bassett on July 7, 2020, wherein you provided further clarity related to documentation about the impact COVID-19 had on the Region's surgical waiting lists. You confirmed you are seeking documentation pertaining to how the Region will deal with its surgical backlog for procedures carried out in the operating room. We also discussed that cancelled consultations with surgeons are managed by the clinic the surgeon is associated with.

In accordance with Part 2 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records held by the Southern Health-Santé Sud has been granted in part.

Access to portions of these records is refused, as the information in these records falls within the following exceptions to disclosure in *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*:

**Contents of response**

- 12(1) In a response under section 11, the head of the public body shall inform the applicant
- (c) if access to the record or part of the record is refused,
    - (i) in the case of a record that does not exist or cannot be located, that the record does not exist or cannot be located,

**Advice to a public body**

- 23(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if disclosure could reasonably be expected to reveal
- (a) advice, opinions, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for the public body or a minister;
  - (b) consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of the public body or a minister;

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Gage Haubrich  
July 23, 2020

Consultations with surgeons are managed by the clinic they are associated with, therefore, Southern Health-Santé Sud does not have a record containing this information. Additionally, we do not have a record related to cancelled consultations with other Health Care Providers due to COVID-19 (i.e. nurses, anaesthetists, etc.).

Specific information and the analysis of the backlog has been redacted to prevent inaccurate inferences to be made by the reader. The record has been shared between officers of the public body to facilitate a decision making process. It includes actions put forward for consideration that have not been carried out.

A copy of these records, as they apply and as they can be reasonably reproduced, in accordance with clause 14(1)(a) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, are as noted below and enclosed as follows:

1. Postponed Surgeries Due to COVID-19.
2. Surgical Waitlist Projections for Southern Health-Santé Sud.

As required by subsection 7(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is excepted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible.

Subsection 59(1) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that you may make a complaint about this decision to the Manitoba Ombudsman. You have 60 days from the receipt of this letter to make a complaint on the prescribed form to:

Manitoba Ombudsman  
750-500 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X1  
1-204-982-9130  
1-800-665-0531

If you have any questions, please contact Lee Bassett, Regional Officer, Privacy & Access at 1-204-822-2655.

Sincerely,



Ms. Marie Lacey  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Access and Privacy Officer, FIPPA

Enclosures



## Postponed Surgeries Due to COVID-19

SITE	TOTAL
<b>Boundary Trails Health Centre</b>	
General	129
Gyne	31
Orthopedic - General	38
Orthopedic - Joints	43
<b>Portage District General Hospital</b>	
General	37
Cataracts	39
ENT	60
<b>Carman Hospital</b>	
General	115
<b>Bethesda Regional Hospital</b>	
General	65
<b>Ste. Anne Hospital</b>	
General	29

FIPPA 025-20

## SURGICAL WAITLIST PROJECTION FOR SHSS - JUNE 8,2020

### Principles of reducing waitlists by site:

1. All sites must follow the social distancing requirement for pre and post op patients
2. Each surgical site hours of operations need to be fully utilized. These are:
  - BRHC- Monday to Friday – 08-1300 – one slate - on call
  - SAH – Tuesday to Friday- 08-1300- one slate
  - BTHC- Monday to Friday- 08- 1500 – three slates , one emergency slate Saturday and on call
  - Carman – Monday to Friday – 08 – 1500- one slate
  - PDGH – Monday to Friday – 08 – 1500 –one slate , one slate 08-12:30 – on call
3. Elective cases can now be part of the slate. These cases need to be prioritized.
4. Self isolation is no longer required prior to surgery.
5. Patients who screen positive need to have surgery postponed unless there is urgency to complete surgery. These cases would be orange category. COVID testing suggested.

23(1)(a)

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## SURGICAL WAITLIST PROJECTION FOR SHSS- JUNE 8,2020

23(1)(a)

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23(1)(a)

### In summary:

- BTHC joint surgery waitlist is beyond the national benchmark- 26 weeks. 23(1)(a)&(b) regular process on doing 3 joints per day, 2 days per week, 24 joints per mth. 23(1)(a)&(b)  
23(1)(a)&(b) With 23(1)(a)&(b)
- It would be reasonable to consider 23(1)(a)&(b)  
23(1)(a)&(b)
- This would impact the General Surgery program and those waitlists, 23(1)(a)&(b) all of the BTHC general surgeons provide endoscopy services at Carman Hospital. 23(1)(a)&(b)  
23(1)(a)&(b)
- 23(1)(a)&(b) 23(1)(a)&(b) 23(1)(a)&(b)
- The cataract program out of PDGH has waitlist kept by the opthamologists Dr. Chin. 23(1)(a)&(b)  
23(1)(a)&(b)

## SURGICAL WAITLIST PROJECTION FOR SHSS- JUNE 8,2020

- The above four points being considered 23(1)(a)&(b)