



Re: Your requests for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (PB/369/2020)

This is to confirm that on **June 9, 2020**, Labrador-Grenfell Health received a request for access to the following records/information:

"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.)"

Please be advised that Labrador-Grenfell Health has reviewed this request and is providing the following information in response:

"On March 16, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador declared a public health state of emergency and implemented precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As a result of these measures, Labrador-Grenfell Health performed only urgent and emergent surgeries, and reduced the volume of services provide within its facilities during this time. Select services were able to continue through in-person visits or virtual care, while others were suspended, resulting in the postponement or cancellation of procedures/appointments.

Between March 16 and April 29, 2020, approximately 338 specialist appointments were cancelled. During this same time, approximately 774 appointments were attended, a 65% decrease from the previous year.

Within Alert Level 4, and in consultation with the Department of Health and Community Services, Labrador-Grenfell Health is gradually resuming high priority medical imaging, endoscopy, cardiac diagnostic and surgical services. When comparing the volume of services provided between March 16 and April 29, 2020, there was:

- A 66% decrease (3,119) in medical imaging when compared to 2019;
- A 72% decrease (187) in surgical services when compared to 2019;
- An 89% decrease (108) in cardiac diagnostic services when compared to 2019;
- An 84% decrease (184) in endoscopy procedures when compared to 2019.

The safety of patients and clients is our top priority. As we gradually resume services and review patient lists, health teams are prioritizing cases based on urgency.”

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 business days of receiving the request. As your request has been completed within 10 business days, this letter will serve as both an advisory and final response.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the *Act*). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8
Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the *Act*.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at gina.woodard@lghealth.ca.

Sincerely,



Gina Woodard
ATIPP Coordinator