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August 21, 2020

*Protection of Privacy Act*

**Request for:** The 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.).

**Time Frame:** February 1, 2020 – June 9, 2020

**File No.:** 2020-33

I am writing in response to your request for access to information described above, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“the FOIPP Act”), which was received by Health PEI on June 9, 2020.

We are pleased to direct you to some publicly available information that may be responsive to your request. The Minister of Health and Wellness tabled a report on surgical procedures postponed due to COVID-19 in the Prince Edward Island legislature on May 29, 2020. It is available at [www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca) under Tabled Documents and we have included a copy for your convenience. You can also find more information at <https://www.cihi.ca/en/wait-times-for-priority-procedures-in-canada>. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) regularly reports wait times for surgeries and procedures on this website.

As noted in our previous correspondence, Health PEI normally responds to a request within 30 days, or sooner, if possible. At this time, the main priority for staff has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. As some restrictions ease and our services begin to return to normal, Health PEI staff are also now focused on the critical functions that had been temporarily put on hold due to COVID-19.

Your request for access to information is important to us and we are committed to responding with the information you have requested as soon as we are able to do so. At this time, a record search is in progress for any records, in addition to the publicly available information, that may be responsive to your request. We will be in touch with you again within the next 30 days or sooner to provide you with the records as requested or to provide further updates until we are able to fully respond to your request. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause for you. If you have any questions, please feel free to email ([jnmacdougall@gov.pe.ca](mailto:jnmacdougall@gov.pe.ca)) or call me at (902) 368-4942.

Sincerely,



Jeanne MacDougall  
Manager, Health Privacy and Information Access

Item J. Ayleward  
29.05.2020  
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Cancelled Surgeries during COVID

At present, the backlog of cancelled surgeries must be dealt with carefully so we don't jeopardize our ability to respond to care for any potential COVID-19 patients, especially with the chance of a second wave.

We are currently focusing on plans to rebook urgent and high priority cases. Our services reinstatement team, which is overseen by clinicians, is assessing things daily as they make plans to address the backlog.

Service Area	QEH	PCH
Eyes (mainly cataracts)	491	
Plastics	37	
Orthopedics	262 (120 total joints)	16
General	61	31
Urology	44	
ENT	52	24
Oral/dental	20	6
Obs/Gyne	20	43
Pain management		9
ECT		4
Totals	987	133

Overall Total: 1,120