



ORTHOPAEDICS WA

• Suite 15, Wexford Medical Centre, 3 Barry Marshall Parade, Murdoch. WA 6150

• Suite 51, Mount Medical Centre, 146 Mounts Bay Road, Perth 6000

• Tel: 08 9312 1135 • Fax: 9332 1187

• Email: reception@orthopaedicswa.com.au • Web: www.orthopaedicswa.com.au

Dear Patients of OrthopaedicsWA,

You are all aware of the crisis that we are all currently facing with the Corona virus pandemic. From what we have learned from other countries, the only way to minimise the spread of the virus is to dramatically reduce the contact between people and to isolate and very carefully treat those that are infected. The hospital theatre is a particularly high-risk area for COVID transmission because of manipulation of the airway.

To this end, the health profession in WA has tried to minimise contact with patients and minimise hospital admissions and surgery. This reduces the chance of spread, saves valuable resources that may be needed, and allows for training and reorganisation of the health service across the public and private health care systems.

At OrthopaedicsWA this has meant that we have postponed all but the most urgent cases for surgery; minimised the number of patients we are seeing in clinic face to face; and substituted clinic consults for telephone/video or remote access.

Most of our surgeons have substantial positions in the public hospitals and have been heavily involved in reorganising these hospitals to prepare for a potential pandemic and maintain a trauma service for those patients in need.

We are hoping that with this aggressive approach, we will slow or stop the transmission of the virus. We expect viral testing and equipment to start to become more available soon, and this may speed the Nation's recovery, and allow us to restart elective surgery sooner. However, at present we are expecting a minimum of several months of dramatically reduced elective surgical activity.

What does this mean to our patients?

- All but the most urgent surgery will be postponed until it becomes clear that we have defeated the pandemic in WA. This may be months depending on how effective the measures we have taken have been. As soon as we know when elective surgery will resume, we will contact you.
- Emergency operations and trauma surgery will still be carried out where needed through St John of God Murdoch Emergency Department, or the public hospital emergency departments. Let us know if you think this applies to you.
- GPs and EDs can still refer to OrthopaedicsWA for assessment or advice through the usual numbers (Tel: 9312 1135, reception@orthopaedicswa.com.au). The rooms will be staffed during normal working hours.
- Most outpatient consults will be carried out by phone or video link with our staff and surgeons. These will be bulk billed.
- Rehabilitation/physiotherapy will be carried out by video/telephone consults where possible (HFRC: 9386 9961, hfrc.com.au).

We thank you for your understanding in this difficult time and will work as hard as we can to get back to normal.

