



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All Media

ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters

For immediate release

Sunday, 20 September 2020

CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH ACADEMIC HOSPITAL GRADUALLY TO INCREASE ELECTIVE SURGERIES

The Gauteng Acting Health MEC Jacob Mamabolo has welcomed the resumption of elective surgeries at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) saying that with the country moving into Alert Level 1 as from midnight on 20 September 2020 it is important that the health system responds accordingly.

CHBAH working together with Bheki Mlangeni Hospital has started carrying out elective surgeries that could not proceed during the higher levels of the national lockdown. Depending development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the facilities will be gradually increasing the number of surgeries especially elective cases. Already in the last two weeks 517 surgeries ranging from surgical, urology, cataract to gynae cases have been successfully conducted.

The Gauteng Department of Health cancelled elective surgeries at the start of the national lockdown on the 27th March 2020 as part of the response to COVID-19. Emergency surgery and essential surgery, however, continued during this period (e.g. Oncology surgery).

The total number of elective cases that were deferred at CHBAG were 7541 broken down as follows per department:

Department	Total Number
Urology	300

Neuro-surgery	48
Maxillo Facial	30
Ophthalmology	2880
ENT	384
Paeds Surgery	1200
Obstetrics and Gynae	420
Plastics Surgery	75
General Surgery	761
Orthopaedics	1443
Total	7541

“Given the Alert Level that we are moving into it becomes important that across our facilities we gradually resume those services that were negatively impacted at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic. Other facilities will also be catching up on elective surgeries,” explains MEC Mamabolo, cautioning that this will be done gradually because the fight against Covid-19 is far from being over and we need to work within the parameters of a new normal.

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Issued by the Department of Health

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