



*The New Jersey*  
**Academy of Ophthalmology**  
New Jersey Eye MDs

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Today Governor Murphy will sign an Executive Order that will allow for the resumption of elective surgical procedures - effective May 26th. The order will be followed by the issuance of "binding guidance" from the NJ Department of Health and the Division of Consumer Affairs that will dictate which procedures may resume, and under what conditions. This guidance for healthcare facilities and practitioners will be announced by Monday, May 18th.

The guidance, according to the Governor, will focus on protecting patients, PPE requirements, prioritizing procedures, and address visitation considerations.

Because so many of our members operate out of ASC's, the NJAO has been working closely with the New Jersey Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers (NJAASC) in order to make sure that the re-opening to surgery is inclusive of ASC's, and that the protocols forthcoming are specific and appropriately different for ASC's and hospitals. Further, both the Department of Health and the Division of Consumer Affairs has been in touch with the NJAO to ascertain the nuances associated with surgeries performed by ophthalmologists. Thank you to our President Michael Farbowitz and our lobbyist, Joe Simonetta, for their efforts in that regard.

We will continue to keep the membership up to date as the guidance becomes available. We are proud to be working on your behalf during these times, if you have any questions as this process unfolds, please let us know and we will be happy to assist you as best we can.

Thanks, Matt Halpin  
Executive Director