

23 April 2020

Dear Colleagues

This letter is from the NZAPS Council to Members regarding resumption of elective surgeries during the New Zealand Government Level 3 COVID response.

The Ministry of Health has released guidelines regarding the resumption of elective surgery in New Zealand for Level 3 which can be found [here](#). It states:

- Some planned care, including elective surgery and radiology, will be provided
- Some non-urgent services or treatment may be deferred.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has not yet put out a New Zealand specific statement but in Australia a joint statement between the Australian Government and RACS noted the following types of surgery could proceed with caution:

- Procedures representing low risk, high value care as determined by specialist societies
- Selection of patients who are at low risk of post-operative deterioration
- Children whose procedures have exceeded clinical wait times.

Private hospitals have asked that specialty societies provide guidance for elective surgery during the Level 3 restrictions in New Zealand.

The NZAPS Council advice to members is as follows:

***During Level 3 COVID response, the NZAPS Council supports the cautious re-starting of elective Plastic and Reconstructive procedures for patients who are at low risk of complications and high benefit of improvement in quality of life.***

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Wheeler, President  
NZ Association of Plastic Surgeons