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June 26, 2020

Dear Healthcare Executives and Chief Medical Officers:

There has been an increase in community COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County. In addition, we are seeing a rise in the daily number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients which could increase, potentially precipitously, in the near term. We recommend that acute care hospitals review their decompression plans now and begin preparations to ensure that they are ready for another wave of cases.

We recommend the following:

1. Develop internal triggers to determine if and what elective surgical procedures and non-essential outpatient services should be curtailed to prioritize PPE, equipment, hospital beds and staff for the care of COVID-19 patients.
2. Plan for opening non-traditional care areas to help manage an increase in cases. After receipt of required regulatory clearance, facilities could identify sites such as perioperative areas and operating rooms to care for critically ill patients and ambulatory clinic space and waiting rooms for patients who do not require ICU level of care.
3. Develop triage plans for utilization of scarce resources such as ventilators.
4. Continue to secure reliable supply chains for testing kits/supplies and PPE. Optimize PPE supplies where possible in case supply chains for PPE remain or become tenuous for some time.
5. Monitor the LA County COVID-19 Hospitalizations and Hospital Capacity [dashboard](#) to see daily number and trends of available ICU beds and ventilators.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in these challenging and unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Muntu Davis, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer