

May 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Effective May 19, 2020, Medical Imaging will begin implementing our ramp up plan, including multiple enhanced safety measures.

Island wide, we have requisitions for roughly 15000 postponed examinations. We recognize that the true unserved need is likely significantly greater. To work through the backlog in CT, US, MRI, NM, and breast imaging, we will continue using a system based on exam priority. During the pandemic to date, our service for STAT and ASAP examinations has continued un-interrupted. Many semi-urgent and most routine examinations have been postponed. Semi-urgent examinations are now being booked in the order that they were postponed. Most routine examinations will not be booked until the semi-urgent backlog has been cleared.

Now more than ever, it will be essential to provide detailed clinical histories on requisitions to help radiologists triage effectively.

As always, if you feel that a patient requires more urgent imaging, please call the MI department.

During the initial days of the ramp up, we will continue to provide **only essential outpatient XRay** imaging to the community. This will allow us to safely support the ramp up in surgical and ambulatory services occurring concurrently. We have run a successful trial of XRay booking at SPH, and are now preparing to roll out this service island-wide. In conjunction with this, we will soon roll out telephone check in across the Island. Both of these systems will likely go live within a week. In the meantime, we will continue restricting outpatient XRays to essential studies.

Sincerely,
Alan Andrew, MD FRCPC
Department Head and Medical Director
Medical Imaging Services