



**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**March 20, 2020**

**St. Luke's Announces Changes to Elective Surgeries, Clinic Visits, and Visitor Policy**

St. Luke's Health System announced today that in response to coronavirus (COVID-19), and in order to support safe care, a safe environment and continual readiness, the organization is suspending all non-urgent/non-emergent operative and invasive procedures effective Monday, March 23.

Suspending non-urgent/non-emergent operative and invasive procedures will help limit exposure risk to patients, staff and providers and will help conserve needed supplies.

Non-essential clinic visits will be suspended effective Monday, March 23, and some visits may be converted to non-traditional visits (e.g., telephone, video visits, e-visits) where available and appropriate; other appointments will be rescheduled.

Additionally, St. Luke's is implementing new visitor procedures starting Friday, March 20. A no-visitor policy, with specific and limited exceptions, is meant to ensure a safe environment for patients, staff and providers.

For more information please visit: [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).

**About St. Luke's Health System:** *St. Luke's is Idaho's only not-for-profit health system, with local physicians and boards who further the organization's mission "To improve the health of people in the communities we serve." St. Luke's is nationally recognized for excellence in patient care, with prestigious awards and designations reflecting the exceptional care that's synonymous with the St. Luke's name. St. Luke's is also home to Idaho's only children's hospital and the region's first virtual care center.*

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