



RESCISSION OF DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. 2020-08b

**RESCISSION OF DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING REQUIRED BEST
PRACTICES FOR ELECTIVE SURGERIES**

(PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE)
DATE OF RESCISSION: May 20, 2021

Effective immediately, Health Officer Directive No. 2020-08b, issued November 6, 2020, is rescinded in full. Health Officer Order No. C19-08b, issued May 15, 2020, has also been concurrently rescinded. On May 4, 2021, the State of California advanced the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) to the yellow tier in its Blueprint for a Safer Economy, subject to local health orders. The yellow tier is the least restrictive tier in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. On May 6, 2021, the City’s Health Officer issued an order allowing the City to reopen and expand generally in alignment with the yellow tier, with some additional local restrictions. The City continues to meet the criteria for the yellow tier under the State’s Blueprint framework, and case rates and hospitalizations have remained generally stable as vaccinations proceed. And the State has announced its intent to rescind its Blueprint for a Safer Economy by June 15, 2021. Although vaccination rates have begun to plateau in the City, San Francisco’s vaccination rate compares favorably globally with countries with the highest vaccination rates. In light of these changes, along with the fact that providers of routine care have been learning and implementing best practices regarding the handling of COVID-19 since March 2020, the Health Officer has decided it now makes sense to remove local restrictions regarding elective surgeries and other ambulatory care. Such clinical providers will remain subject to industry best practices and other Health Officer orders and directives, including by way of example Health Officer Order No. C19-07x, as long as they remain in place during the pandemic.

Providers of elective surgery are strongly recommended to refer to information about routine care available online at www.sfchcp.org/routinecare and are reminded to follow industry best practices related to infection control and COVID-19.

Susan Philip, MD, MPH,
Health Officer of the
City and County of San Francisco

Date: May 20, 2021