

# DR. DEREK NORCOM

5/2/2020

Dear Patients,

First of all, we miss all of you and hope that you are all doing well. We can't wait see you and take care of you again!

As many of you are aware, on 4/23 the Oregon Health Authority announced in a press conference that elective medical procedures would be allowed as of 5/1/2020.

Based on that statement, we decided to take a cautionary approach and reopen for appointments on 5/15/2020. We deliberately created a window to see if case numbers of COVID-19 will spike due to the expected number of procedures and surgeries that will be performed statewide. We did this with your safety in mind. On 4/29 we began calling patients to schedule for 5/15.

Yesterday (5/1), the [Oregon Health Authority](#) posted regulations, dated 4/29, regarding the resumption of elective medical procedures and surgeries. To our surprise, included in that document was this statement:

"A business like a medical spa...must remain closed at this time under Executive Order 20-12."

Executive Order 20-12 does indeed stipulate that "medical spas" must remain closed.

The challenge we are facing is that there is no true legal definition of "medical spa." It is a common term that is difficult, if not impossible, to define due to the fact that traditional "medical spa" procedures are performed by plastic surgeons, naturopaths, dentists, doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and medical assistants. We do not define ourselves as a medical spa, but some might. We define ourselves as a physician-owned medical practice that performs medical aesthetic procedures. Further, practices like ours include both surgical and non-surgical procedures or a combination thereof

There is now controversy over who can reopen, as evidenced by the recent [article in the Oregonian](#), dated 5/1, with the following headline:

"Confusion reigns over whether Oregonians can receive Botox...during the coronavirus pandemic"

Due to this ambiguity we are now back to waiting for specific procedural guidance from the Oregon Health Authority.

For now, we will continue to schedule appointments for medical injectable treatments beginning 5/15 – because we don't define ourselves as a medical spa – with the understanding that we may need to cancel those appointments should we receive clear direction from our governmental agencies regarding our ability to reopen.

In the meantime, we will definitely stay in touch with you. Questions and appointment requests for injectable services may be emailed to [scheduling@drnorcom.com](mailto:scheduling@drnorcom.com).

Sincerely,

Dr. Derek Norcom and Staff

