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# COVID-19 Affects Treatment in Kentucky and Texas

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## **Kentucky**

On June 24, 2020, Commissioner Robert Swisher of the Kentucky Department of Workers' Claims issued an administrative order delaying the implementation of the ODG Medical Treatment Guidelines until January 1, 2021. The guidelines were previously slated to go into effect on September 1, 2020. The commissioner noted in the order that the coronavirus has had a significant impact on the operations of medical offices and providers may not have the time necessary to obtain training on the use of the new guidelines.

A copy of the administrative order can be found [here](#).

## **Texas**

On June 25, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA 27 to expand hospital capacity to help with COVID-19 patients. The order suspends all elective surgeries at hospitals located in Bexar, Dallas, Harris and Travis counties, which encompass the major metropolitan areas of San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Austin. Lack of access to hospitals for elective surgeries could delay care and the return to work of injured workers in those counties.

The Governor's executive order can be found [here](#).

For questions regarding this alert, or any other regulatory or legislative matters, please contact Brian Allen, Vice President of Government Affairs [Brian.Allen@mitchell.com](mailto:Brian.Allen@mitchell.com) or at 801.903.5754.

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