

Surgery department outlines rapid response to COVID-19

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competing personal priorities such as child care. Through collaboration between the departments of surgery and hospital, the strategy included reducing operating room volume by 80 percent, securing a four-week supply of [personal protective equipment](#), and creating reduced staffing protocols with backup staffing plans.

"By developing an enabling infrastructure, a department can nimbly respond to crises like COVID-19 by promoting trust among colleagues and emphasizing an unwavering commitment to excellent patient care," write the authors.

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(HealthDay)—In a comprehensive rapid response plan, published online April 9 in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, surgeons from the University of California San Francisco present a strategy to triage surgeries to help manage health care resources during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Elizabeth M. Lancaster, M.D., from University of California at San Francisco, and colleagues outline the strategy of a single academic health system for addressing critical issues facing surgical departments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The researchers identified four critical issues: (1) developing a cohesive leadership team and system for frequent communication throughout the department; (2) ensuring adequate hospital capacity to care for an anticipated influx of COVID-19 patients; (3) safeguarding supplies of blood products and personal protective equipment to protect patients and providers; and (4) preparing for an unstable workforce due to illness and

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