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March 16, 2020

RE: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Dear Valued Culinary Provider,

The health and safety of our Culinary participants is of primary importance to us. The consideration of elective procedure delay has been included in recommendations made by the CDC since February 2020. All of us must do our part to support our local healthcare system. Soon, capacity to care for many additional medically ill patients will be needed in all local healthcare facilities. Personal protective equipment and supplies must be preserved for those acute needs.

Therefore, effective immediately, the Culinary Health Fund (via Nevada Health Solutions) will not be processing authorizations for non-essential, elective procedures.

This will be reassessed continually as the coronavirus pandemic evolves. Notification will be sent when any changes to this are made. Please discuss risks and benefits of any procedural delay with your patients. If you believe that a procedure is essential, critical to the health of the patient and must be performed now, please notify Nevada Health Solutions with your authorization request. We want to work together with you to achieve the best support that we can for our patients in need.

Please stay informed as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 outbreak situation changes daily. The CDC maintains valuable guidance for healthcare professionals here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

Southern Nevada Health District encourages anyone with concerns to call the General Public Helpline at (702) 759-INFO (4636). The number is live Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for COVID-19 questions. The SNHD main number is (702) 759-1000.

<https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/coronavirus/>

Sincerely,

The Culinary Health Fund