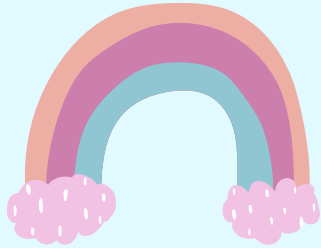




# The Massachusetts Transgender Health Coalition's

## Guiding Principles for Gender-Affirming Care in the time of COVID-19 Information for Trans, NonBinary, and Gender-Diverse Patients



**HANG IN THERE.** We understand the importance of your gender-affirming care. There are many long-awaited gender-affirming appointments or procedures, which are now being canceled or postponed. We also understand that hospitals are struggling to serve a large number of people with COVID-19 cases that are immediately life-threatening and that moving forward with in-person gender-affirming services increases your risk of possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Please know that we are doing what we can to ensure providers and insurers understand the importance of gender-affirming care and that these procedures are seen as priorities when it comes time to reschedule. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to: [MTPC](#) or [GLADAnswers.org](#).



**STAY CONNECTED.** We know it can be devastating to have your appointment or procedure canceled or postponed. Please make sure you have someone you can talk to or resources you can access online or by telephone. [Here are a few.](#)



**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.** As transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse people and their advocates, we know that navigating the health care system can be a challenging and, often, painful experience. Discrimination against transgender people in the health care system is unlawful. If you have concerns about any mistreatment that you experience during this public health emergency, please reach out to: [MTPC](#) or [GLADAnswers.org](#).



**BE AWARE.** Stay indoors as much as possible. Keep a safe distance. Wash your hands thoroughly and often. Cover your mouth and nose with a face covering in the presence of others or if you are sick. Cover coughs and sneezes. Clean and disinfect surfaces daily. If you feel ill, call your doctor. If you are immunocompromised or have another underlying health condition, follow your doctor's guidance. You can find CDC guidelines here: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

