

## Media Release

**From:** Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor

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**Subject:** Elective surgery postponed at Masterton Hospital

This week, five elective operations have had to be postponed due to the pressure on beds at Masterton Hospital.

‘While regrettable, this is not an unexpected occurrence at this time of year,’ says CEO David Meates. ‘The seasonal combination of winter illnesses in the community and staff illness means we need to use some surgical ward beds to accommodate medical patients.’

All patients whose operations have been postponed have been notified, and arrangements are being made to reschedule their operations as soon as possible.

‘At any time, it’s always important that we have enough capacity to manage an acute event, like a car accident or other urgent operation,’ says Mr Meates. ‘The situation is monitored on a daily basis, and decisions are made depending on the situation.’

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