



## COVID-19 Update #24

December 22, 2020 – 2:30 pm

Dear Registrant,

The College has received additional information relating to the Province-wide shutdown announced by the Ontario Government yesterday, which will come into effect at 12:01 am on December 26, 2020.

### **In person opticianry services may continue by appointment only**

We confirm that as regulated health professionals, opticians may continue to offer services to the public during the shutdown. However, in an effort to curb foot traffic and regulate the flow of persons in public and commercial spaces, **the government has directed that optical stores operate on an appointment-only basis for all in person services.**

For more information, see page 13 of the [Provincewide Shutdown Information Sheet](#) issued by the Ontario Government, which provides that:

Safety supply stores, businesses that sell, rent or repair assistive/mobility/medical devices, and optical stores that sell prescription eyewear to the public [may remain open]:

- By appointment only
- Curbside pick-up and delivery permitted

### **Opticians may determine the appointment system that best suits their practice environment**

We recognize that every practice setting is unique. Opticians may therefore exercise professional judgment to put in place an appointment system that best suits their individual practice environment.

The appointment system should permit the optician to limit store capacity in accordance with government guidelines (see page 5 of the [Provincewide Shutdown Information Sheet](#)).

### **Opticians may continue to offer services via remote practice where appropriate**

Opticians may continue to offer services via remote practice where possible and appropriate, including for consultations and delivery of ophthalmic appliances. Please refer to the [Standards of Practice](#) for more information and guidance on the use of remote practice by opticians.

### **Opticians must continue to take health and safety precautions and follow relevant guidelines**

As always, and no matter how services are delivered, the College reminds opticians that they must continue to adhere to all relevant health and safety guidelines, including:

- [Standards of Practice](#)
- [Return to Work Guidelines](#)
- [COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart Document](#)

The College will continue to provide updates in the event that further information becomes available. If you have questions, please contact us at [practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca](mailto:practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca)

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO Team