

Visiting Your Optometrist During COVID-19

At Viking Vision Center caring for our patients, staff, and community is our primary concern. On March 17, 2020 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new guidelines to postpone *routine eye care*. We are in the process of communicating with patients impacted by this update to reschedule their routine appointments for a later date. On March 22, 2020 Governor DeWine issued a “stay at home” order that will go in effect on Monday, March 23, at 11:59 p.m. and remain in effect until at least April 6.

Therefore, we will not be scheduling any routine examinations until after April 6th. We are still open for urgent/emergency eye care and patients that we will continue to see are as follows:

- Vision loss
- Eye pain / abrasions /foreign bodies
- Red eyes / eye infections
- Glaucoma patients
- Diabetic patients
- Macular degeneration
- Broken glasses with no back up and unable to function without correction
- Contact lens wearers that are at risk of running out of contacts, we will be extending contact lens prescriptions to allow you to order enough lenses to get you by until your scheduled exam.

Here Are the Precautions Our Eye Clinic Is Taking to Limit COVID-19:

We employ a strict office policy that mandates that all eye doctors, opticians, office staff, and patients not enter if they are feeling unwell or have a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, or have been exposed to a known case of COVID-19 or traveled outside of the country within the last 14 days.

Upon arrival for your appointment, please call our office **740-983-6171** prior to coming into the building. The staff may ask you to wait outside rather than in the waiting area in order to protect yourself and others from any circulating germs. Furthermore, we are trying to schedule our appointments in such a way that our waiting room remains as empty as possible.

During your eye exam:

- The eye doctor may use a special plastic barrier called a slit-lamp breath shield to block the exchange of breath between patient and doctor.
- The practitioner will wait for your slit-lamp eye exam to be over before speaking with you or answering any questions you may have.
- We sanitize all equipment and patient contact surfaces after every use.
- We sanitize all surfaces and equipment (front desk counters, telephones, pens, door handles, waiting room chairs).
- All staff members wash their hands after contact with each patient and throughout the day.
- We make sure to clean frames that have come into contact with patients with soap and hot water.
- If we don't shake hands with our patients during this time, please don't take it personally.

Please call Viking Vision Center at 740-983-6171 with any questions or concerns you may have. If you feel it's best for you or a member of your family to reschedule your appointment, we encourage you to do so.

Our temporary hours for urgent/emergency eye care moving forward are:

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.