

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.



SERVICE CORRECTIONNEL CANADA

TRANSFORMONS DES VIES. PROTÉGEONS LES CANADIENS.

2020-07-06

COVID-19 Interim Modifications to Optometry Services

In addition to existing infection prevention and control (IPC) measures implemented to ensure the safe delivery of optometry services in CSC, the following are interim modifications to optometry practice in the context of COVID-19. Optometry contractors providing any in-person care amidst the COVID-19 pandemic must also adhere to the direction of provincial public health, and their governing college to promote their safety, as well as the safety of CSC's patients and staff.

General Infection Prevention and Control Measures

- Ensure the availability of 60-90% alcohol based hand rub¹ or other hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada for COVID-19² at entrance and throughout the office.
- The optometry room should be decluttered as much as possible (this includes removing any non-optometry equipment or supplies stored in the optometry room, computers, etc.)
- Minimize the number of staff in the workplace and maintain physical distancing of 2m from others.
- Ensure appropriate signage is posted in common areas, including topics such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and physical distancing (See [CSC Posters and Resources](#) and [Wash Your Hands](#) for signage).
- All staff, including optometry staff, should be screened by operations for symptoms of COVID-19 upon entering the institution. Optometry staff should not attend work if feeling unwell.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Optometrists are required to wear medical/procedural masks and eye protection for all interactions within 2m of a patient. Optometrists should wear gloves and/or use disposable cotton tip applicators whenever they are touching patients' eyes or eyelids.³
- Patients are required to wear non-medical masks.
- Consider installing breath shields (slit lamp shields) for auxillary testing equipment.
- CSC staff and contract optometry providers must be trained in personal IPC practices including donning and doffing PPE ([COVID-19 Update: Guidance on the Use of Non-Medical Masks and Personal Protective Equipment](#)).
- Please see [COVID-19 Update: Guidance on the Use of Non-Medical Masks and Personal Protective Equipment](#) for PPE guidance that staff and contractors must adhere to while in CSC institutions, which includes universal masking protocols to be followed at all times and performing hand hygiene between each patient.

¹ **Public Health Agency of Canada (2020)**. Infection prevention and control for COVID-19: Interim guidance for long term care homes. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevent-control-covid-19-long-term-care-homes.html>

² **Public Health Agency of Canada (2020)**. Hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (COVID-19): List of hand sanitizers authorized by Health Canada. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/hand-sanitizer.html>

³ **College of Optometrists of Ontario (2020)**. Return to Work: Infection Prevention and Control for Optometric Practice. Retrieved from: https://opto.ca/sites/default/files/resources/documents/covid-return-to-work-ipac_0.pdf



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Cleaning

- Optometry contractors to clean and disinfect any surface area the patient may have come in contact with and all patient care items (diagnostic equipment, frames, occluders, slit lamp shields, etc.) between each patient. Then perform hand hygiene.
- Cleaning and disinfection must be undertaken using appropriate hospital-grade low-level disinfectants that are registered in Canada with a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and labelled as effective for both enveloped and non-enveloped viruses.
- It is recommended that optometrists change into different clothes at the end of the shift (then place in a bag for laundering), and shower immediately upon returning home.

Patient Flow

- Optometry contractors should perform a point-of-care risk assessment for all patients prior to commencing the appointment to determine if the patient is experiencing symptoms (see [COVID-19 Update: Guidance on the Use of Non-Medical Masks and Personal Protective Equipment](#) for more information about this assessment), including a temperature measurement (recorded in OHIS-OMS).
 - If the patient is experiencing symptoms or has a temperature above 38°C, the appointment should be rescheduled to a later date (at least 14 days later) if possible. Refer to [COVID-19 Patient Journey: Algorithm for Symptomatic Inmates](#).
 - If a patient that is experiencing symptoms or has a temperature above 38°C requires urgent/emergency attention, consult the institutional physician or refer the patient to the emergency room.
- Prior to leaving the appointment, patients should be instructed to monitor for symptoms and notify Health Services if symptoms develop within the 14 day period after the appointment. Health Services staff must then follow the [COVID-19 Patient Journey: Algorithm for Symptomatic Inmates](#) and notify the optometrist involved in the appointment.
- Consider scheduling more vulnerable patients (older, those with underlying medical conditions, etc.) at the beginning of the day, first after lunch or on a separate day.

Clinical Guidance

- Visual Field Testing: full threshold visual fields should only be conducted for urgent, emergency, and time-sensitive cases.
- Optometrists should use professional judgement regarding the measurement of intraocular pressure (when it is necessary, which equipment and PPE to use, the risk of aerosol generation, and disinfection of the equipment and surrounding environment). Optometrists must adhere to the guidance of their governing college for the measurement of intraocular pressure and implement their recommended infection prevention and control measures.
 - Optometrists may consider using Tonopens for measuring intraocular pressure.
 - Clean and disinfect any device or equipment before and after each patient use and according to the manufacturer recommendations (using Health Canada approved products for COVID-19).
- Single use diagnostic drops should be used.
- All eyeglass frames touched by a patient should be disinfected after use.
- When adjusting or repairing a patient's personal frames, the frames should be disinfected prior to making the adjustment or repair and any tools used should be disinfected after use.
- No initial contact lens sittings are to be performed at this time (i.e. insertion and removal training).

