



March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To: Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Optometrists

RE: COVID-19 and Optometry in NL

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Newfoundland and Labrador remains a very low risk area regarding the COVID-19 pandemic with only 3 confirmed cases in the province. We do believe however that it is prudent for all optometrists to adopt specific measure to slow the growth curve of this condition.

We are advising all optometrists to:

**Cease providing routine eye examinations to the public indefinitely.** This decision will be reviewed every 7-10 days. Members will be contacted by the College when routine exams can be resumed.

Optometrists will be able to provide **urgent and emergency care** to patients if needed on a reduced schedule.

Optometrists offices should inform patients they will now only offer urgent care and provide a way to contact any office that remains open to provide this service.

Optometrists who are unwell or who have recently returned from travel outside of Canada should self-isolate as per guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada and **should not** provide any care, including urgent care.

For patients who require emergency/surgical interventions, **do not** send patients to your local emergency room unless absolutely necessary.

Dr. Justin Boulay  
Registrar, NLCO  
on behalf of the College.