

COVID-19

As a healthcare Association, we must do our small part to help. As global concerns surrounding COVID-19 continue to grow, we are taking proactive steps to practice social distancing and prioritize the health and safety of our community, including our optometrists, clinics, staff, and the public.

Continued Provision of Optometric Care

Currently, many of our doctors are improving the safety of their clinics by increasing sanitation protocols and reducing traffic. This includes postponing routine visits until the public health situation stabilizes, while continuing to provide urgent care triage and management. This allows our doctors to support the healthcare system by keeping urgent ocular concerns out of emergency rooms, where the burden continues to increase.

In some cases, clinics may determine that the safest decision for their teams and patients is to close temporarily. In these cases, they can direct you to an appropriate eyecare provider should you have an ocular emergency.

The directive to close optometry clinics or keep them open for the sake of public health can only be made by health authorities and health regulators. BCDO does not have the mandate to do this. Our role is to support and inform our members and the public throughout this rapidly changing health and economic crisis.

If you have an ocular emergency, please contact your local Doctor of Optometry for guidance. You can locate one using our [Find a Doctor tool](#).

For Optometrists and Industry Partners

As of March 17, 2020, BC Doctors of Optometry (BCDO) staff will work remotely from home. While our physical office will be closed until further notice, our Association team is still here to support you.

- You can email us at info@optometrists.bc.ca, and your inquiry will be directed to the appropriate team;
- You can call and speak to the team at (604) 737-9907, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

During this transition, we thank you for your patience as we adapt to a new working environment. There may be some delays in responding to voicemail messages and emails may take a bit longer than usual.

We understand that you may also have questions regarding Association plans for the near future. This is an unprecedented situation for all of us, but rest assured, it is a priority for us to determine next steps and continue to serve our members and educate the public.

Our CE events will move to webinar sessions

All in-person BCDO events from now through mid-May have been postponed. We are in the process of assessing events scheduled from the end of May onwards. In the meantime, we are working on providing webinars to continue fostering education.

At this critical time and in the coming weeks, it is evident that the state of our healthcare system is more vital than ever.

You can find more information and updates on COVID-19 using the following resources:

- [Health Canada](#)
- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [HealthLink 8-1-1](#)
- [Canadian Association of Optometrists: COVID-19 Information](#)