



COVID-19 Update #13: Return to Practice Guidelines

May 13, 2020 – 5:00 pm

Dear Registrant:

In preparation for a phased reopening of workplaces by the government and to ensure the health and safety of opticians, patients and dispensary staff, the College has developed Return to Practice Guidelines to assist Opticians as they transition back to practice once governmental restrictions are lifted.

Opticians are encouraged to use the [Guidelines](#) as a resource as they begin preparing to return to practice, but at this time, opticians cannot yet resume non-essential services. The Guidelines will come into effect once opticians are given direction by the Ontario government to resume practice. In the meantime, the government has extended the emergency order that requires closure of non-essential workplaces until June 2 and opticians must continue to follow [Directive #2](#) which allows only essential services until otherwise directed. We will keep registrants informed as new information becomes available and the guidelines will continue to be reviewed and updated as necessary.

It is also important to be aware that a return to practice does not mean a return to business as usual. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a public health risk, opticians will need to take extra health and safety precautions. We recognize that there are many differences between practice environments, and that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. For that reason, the Guidelines have been drafted broadly to accommodate these differences while emphasizing the need for registrants to keep health and safety considerations paramount.

Webinar on the Return to Practice Guidelines

We invite you to participate in the College's webinar on **Friday, May 15, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am** to learn more about the Return to Practice Guidelines. **The webinar is currently pending CE accreditation.**

During the webinar, information will be provided to registrants on:

- Setting up the dispensary
- Dispensing considerations
- Screening patients and staff
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Participants will also have the opportunity to pose questions and get answers in real-time.

Please click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

We look forward to having you attend our session. If you are unable to attend, we will post a link to the webinar on our website for you to watch at your convenience.

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO Team