



COVID-19 Update #14: Return to Practice

May 15, 2020 – 5:00 pm

Yesterday the Ontario Government announced a [list](#) of additional businesses that are permitted to reopen as of Tuesday May 19, 2020. The list includes retail services that are not in shopping malls and that have separate street-front entrances with measures in place that can enable physical distancing.

While this announcement indicates that Ontario is moving forward with its plan to reopen the province, opticians are still subject to [Directive #2](#) which limits health professionals to essential or emergency services until further notice. **Non-essential opticianry services cannot be resumed until this directive is amended or rescinded by the provincial authorities.**

The College recognizes that many opticians work in retail settings. These businesses may reopen for retail purposes only (e.g. sale of accessories, contact lens solutions and non-prescription sunglasses), provided they meet the criteria set out for retailers by the provincial government. Dispensing of prescription eyewear remains limited to urgent or essential services only at this time.

Dispensaries that remain open or will be reopening for the purposes of **providing urgent care and/or non-prescription retail services** must ensure that they maintain the Standards of Practice on safety and infection control in the practice environment. For more information, see the College's [Emergency Guidelines](#) and [Return to Practice Guidelines](#).

In addition, we wish to thank everyone who attended this morning's webinar on the [Return to Practice Guidelines](#). We know that many of you had questions that we were not able to get to, so please stay tuned as we continue to develop additional FAQs for the website. In addition, a video of the webinar will be available on the website shortly.

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO Team