

COVID-19 Update #16

June 18, 2020 – 4:00 pm

Dear Registrant,

Updates to the Return to Practice Guidelines

The College has updated its [Return to Practice Guidelines](#) to reflect the following updated documents issued by the Ministry of Health:

- [COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart](#)
- [Patient Screening Guidance Documents](#)

The updated Ministry of Health Patient Screening Guide **no longer includes** a question about recent travel outside of Ontario. Opticians should continue to screen themselves, their staff and their patients for recent travel outside of Canada, and consider any recent travel as a “positive” screening result and self-isolate or reschedule appointments accordingly. In addition, Opticians and their staff should consider any travel to affected areas within or outside of Ontario, as a “positive” screening result, and self-isolate accordingly unless they meet the exceptions referred to in the updated Return to Practice Guidelines.

The Health Sector Restart document, as well as the College’s Return to Practice Guidelines, must be followed by all opticians who have or are planning to return to full practice in accordance with the amended [Directive #2](#).

Provide Feedback on the Proposed Registration Fee Adjustment

The College understands that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on registrants. To assist opticians in meeting their regulatory obligations for the coming year and ensure that patients have access to an adequate supply of qualified ROs in 2021, the College is considering a by-law change that will reduce the 2021 annual fee for registered opticians by \$200.

Your input is important to us. Please share your feedback on the proposed fee reduction by completing this [short survey](#) before July 22, 2020.

Book a Session for Virtual Practice Advice as you Return to Practice

The College is offering to meet virtually with ROs and dispensary staff to talk about the return to practice guidelines and to answer specific questions on requirements and best practices. Please contact practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca if you are interested.



Attend the Board of Directors Meeting Remotely on July 27

We appreciate the interest of the many opticians who observed our first virtual Board of Directors meeting on May 11. We invite you to join our next virtual Board of Directors meeting by webinar on Monday July 27, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:30. Please reserve your spot for the webinar by Friday July 24, by clicking [here](#).

The Board Meeting agenda and meeting materials will be available on the website the week before the Board meeting. Meeting highlights will be posted the following week. If you have any questions please contact the College at mail@collegeofopticians.ca or by phone at 416-368-3616 x 200. We hope you can join us.

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO team