



COVID-19 Update #17

June 26, 2020 – 10:30 am

Dear Registrant,

The College has received several questions from registrants regarding the performance of initial contact lens fittings.

We understand that the College of Optometrists has recently updated their Return to Work guidelines to permit optometrists to perform initial contact lens fittings. The guidelines previously prohibited optometrists from doing so.

We wish to remind opticians that under the College's Return to Practice Guidelines, initial contact lens fittings are not prohibited. Rather, the College **strongly recommended** against initial fits, in light of the fact that they necessitate close proximity to a patient for a potentially prolonged period of time, which increases the risk of infection to both the optician and the patient. Opticians may, however, use their professional judgement to perform initial contact lens fittings where they are of opinion that it is in the patient's best interest to do so and appropriate precaution is taken. The College continues to review the Return to Practice Guidelines and will update registrants with any revisions.

Please contact us at practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Fazal and the COO Team