



## COVID-19 Update #23

December 21, 2020 – 3:00 pm

Dear Registrant,

Today the Ontario Government announced that a province-wide shutdown will come into effect as of December 26, 2020 in an attempt to control the spread of COVID-19. All non-essential businesses have been ordered to close for 28 days in Southern Ontario, and 14 days in Northern Ontario.

Based on the information available at this time, the shutdown **does not currently apply to regulated health professionals**, and therefore **health services may remain open**. Nevertheless, the College reminds all opticians that this is not business as usual. While health services have thus far been excluded from the lockdown order, today's announcement demonstrates that the situation in many parts of the province has reached alarming levels. Opticians should only provide services where they can do so safely and in accordance with [Standard 4 on Safety and Infection Control](#), as well as the [Return to Practice Guidelines](#).

In addition, the College continues to encourage the use of physical distancing wherever possible, including curbside pickup and delivery. In addition, opticians are encouraged to consider using remote care for consultations and delivery of ophthalmic appliances, where possible and appropriate.

The College continues to monitor the situation and will provide updates as additional information becomes available. If you have questions, please contact us at [practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca](mailto:practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca).

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO Team