



COVID-19 Update #32

April 1, 2021 – 4:00 pm

Dear Registrant,

Ontario Implements Provincewide Emergency Brake

The Ontario Government announced today that effective Saturday April 3, 2021, a [provincewide emergency brake](#) will be in effect that returns all regions of the province to the “Shutdown Zone”.

The rules for the Shutdown Zone permit regulated health professionals, including opticians, to continue offering services to the public. All retail businesses must, however, limit their capacity to 25% and post a sign in a visible location stating their maximum capacity. No restrictions on hours or requirements to operate on an appointment-only basis have been announced at this time. The College is continuing to monitor the situation and will provide updates should any new information become available.

In light of the recent surge in case numbers and hospitalizations related to COVID-19 across the Province, the College once again reminds opticians to remain vigilant in adhering to the [Standards of Practice](#) and the [Return to Practice Guidelines](#) in ensuring safe delivery of opticianry services.

Vaccination for Opticians

Registered opticians in many areas of the province are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. As essential healthcare workers, the College encourages all opticians to consider getting vaccinated. Vaccination is an important way to protect yourself and to ensure that you can deliver safe and ethical care to your patients. Visit your public health unit’s website for more information on eligibility and timelines. A list of public health units can be found on our website [here](#).

ROs are further encouraged to review the Government of Ontario’s [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario web page](#) for information about the province’s vaccine distribution implementation plan and vaccine safety.

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO Team