

COVID-19 Update #29

March 5, 2021 – 5:00 pm

Dear Registrant,

Return to COVID-19 Response Framework

The Ontario Government [announced](#) today that Toronto, Peel and North Bay-Parry Sound Public Health Regions will no longer be subject to the Emergency Shutdown, and will be returning to the strengthened [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) effective Monday March 8, 2021. Toronto and Peel will be returning to the *Grey-Lockdown* level, and North Bay Parry Sound will be returning to the *Red-Control* level.

A summary of the rules for each zone under the COVID-19 Response Framework can be found [here](#).

Detailed rules for each zone can be found as follows:

- [O. Reg. 82/20](#): Grey-Lockdown
- [O. Reg. 263/20](#): Red-Control
- [O. Reg. 364/20](#): Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, and Orange-Restrict

Rules Applicable to Optical Stores (as of March 5, 2021)

The following chart provides a brief summary of some of the key rules that apply to optical stores as of March 5, 2021. These rules are subject to change, so opticians should ensure that they regularly check the links above for updates.

Zone	Appointment System	Hour Restrictions	Capacity Limits
Grey: Lockdown	Required	7am to 8pm	Maximum 25%
Red: Control	Optional	None	Maximum 50%
Orange: Restrict	Optional	None	Professional Judgment (See Return to Practice Guidelines)
Yellow: Protect	Optional	None	Professional Judgment (See Return to Practice Guidelines)
Green: Prevent	Optional	None	Professional Judgment (See Return to Practice Guidelines)

Mask Requirements for all Businesses

Opticians must continue comply with the masking requirements set out in the Ministry of Health [Operational Requirements](#) guidelines. This includes wearing a surgical/procedure mask at all times when working at a distance of 2 metres or less from a patient.



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In addition, under provincial regulations, all opticians and staff, must wear a mask or face covering **at all times** while indoors, regardless of whether there is a patient present. Opticians and staff may only remove the mask/face covering if they are working in an area that is **not accessible** to members of the public and they are able to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person.

Patients and any other person in any indoor area of a business must also wear a mask or face covering **at all times** while indoors, *unless*:

- They are a child under two years of age
- They require accommodation for medical reasons or any other reason relating to accessibility or human rights.

Masks may be removed temporarily for health and safety reasons, or in order to:

- Receive a service that cannot be provided without removing the mask
- Eat or drink

Please note that opticians are also responsible for ensuring that they comply with any additional rules or regulations that may apply in their municipality, region or area.

And, as always, and no matter how services are delivered, the College reminds opticians that they must continue to adhere to all relevant health and safety guidelines, including:

- [Standards of Practice](#)
- [Return to Work Guidelines](#)
- [COVID-19 Operation Requirements Health Sector Restart Document](#)

Finally, we would like to remind you that local Public Health Units have started deploying vaccination programs by region. Please check with your local Public Health Unit for further information.

As always, the College remains committed to keeping you informed. For any practice related questions please contact us at practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO team