

COVID-19 Update #47

March 17, 2022 – 1:00 pm

Dear Registrant,

As the province moves towards relaxing the masking mandate in most settings on March 21st, we would like to provide our registrants with further clarification. Under the updated regulation, among other settings, clinics that provide health care services will still be required to adhere to masking guidelines and as such, existing guidance from the College regarding masking remains in effect until at least April 27th when the province indicates that masking measures may further be relaxed.

	Is mask required?	Type of Personal Protective Equipment/Protocols
Patients or Visitors	Required	Non-medical (cloth) or face covering
Opticians, working within 2 metres of a patient who screens negative for COVID-19	Required	Surgical mask and hand hygiene
Opticians, working at more than 2 metres from the patient	Recommended Required	Surgical mask and hand hygiene Non-medical mask or other face covering, in accordance with any other municipal, regional, provincial or federal government or authorities regarding the use of face masks or coverings in indoor spaces or workplaces.
Opticians, working within 2 metres of a patient who screens positive for COVID-19	Required	Fit-tested, seal checked N95 respirator, isolation gown, gloves, eye protection, and hand hygiene
Staff, where physical distance cannot be maintained	Recommended Required	Surgical mask and hand hygiene Non-medical mask or other face covering, in accordance with any other municipal, regional, provincial or federal government or authorities regarding the use of face masks or coverings in indoor spaces or workplaces.

Regardless of any changes to provincial mask mandates, opticians and optical dispensary operators are expected to provide a safe practice environment for their patients which includes adherence to all cleaning and disinfection protocols.



The fluid nature of the pandemic has posed a challenge as guidance from the province continues to change in response to the environment. As the province moves towards removing remaining mask requirements in April, the College will provide further guidance on long term practice, standards and guidance.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please reach out to us at practiceadvice@collegeofopticians.ca

Kind Regards,

Fazal and the COO Team