

# EYE HEALTH PATIENT SAFETY TIPS



Across the country, optometry practices are beginning to reopen and resume delivery of complete, comprehensive eye health and vision care. While practice operations will proceed under a “new normal,” the American Optometric Association (AOA) and member doctors of optometry are working to ensure the continued safe delivery of essential eye care by doctors of optometry during the COVID-19 public health emergency for patients and the public.

## TIPS TO PREPARE FOR YOUR NEXT OFFICE VISIT:



When scheduling your appointment, ask your

doctor about safety protocols they have in place to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the office.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with

unwashed hands while in the office.



Many health care offices will request that you attend your appointment

without accompaniment, unless you require assistance. If you do need assistance, alert the staff to your needs to help the office manage patient flow efficiently.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least

20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.



The use of a facemask or cloth face cover that covers

your nose and mouth and gloves is strongly recommended, and may even be required to enter a healthcare facility.



Continue to keep about six feet between yourself

and others. **A cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.**



Bring hand sanitizer with you in case you are unable

to wash your hands as necessary



Notify your doctor if you or anyone in your household display any signs or symptoms of

COVID-19. If you are experiencing symptoms, such as loss of the sense of smell or taste, or have fever or cough, consult with your primary care provider first unless you are experiencing ocular-related emergency warning signs.

For more information about eye health and to find a local AOA doctor of optometry, visit [aoa.org/eyehealthCOVID19](https://www.aoa.org/eyehealthCOVID19).