



KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

Andy Beshear
Governor

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Carson Kerr
Executive Director

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COVID-19 ADVISORY FOR KENTUCKY LICENSED OPTOMETRISTS

The Commonwealth of Kentucky takes very serious the threat posed by the novel coronavirus outbreak in state and across the globe. In response the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners (“Board”) advises as follows:

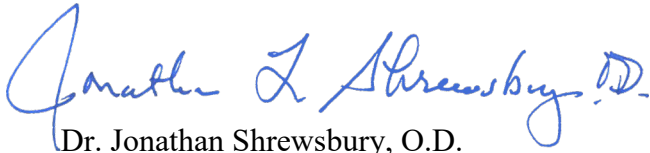
In accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [guidelines amended yesterday, March 17, 2020](#), recommending that everyone postpone all routine dental and eye care visits, and upon the advice of the Kentucky Governor’s Office ([See also Governor’s Order dated March 17, 2020](#)), and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (“Cabinet”), the Board urges all licensed Optometrists comply with the CDC recommendations and that **you postpone all routine eye-care visits and elective procedures. This should begin immediately and continue until advised otherwise by this Board. However, the postponement of “routine eye care visits” does not require that all optometric services stop. This only applies to non-essential, non-urgent care.** Kentucky doctors of optometry are recognized as serving in essential health care roles, and provide essential health care to vulnerable citizens. The Board will review and may choose to act upon instances of the use of non-essential/non-emergency CPT codes. The Board will take seriously any complaints received related to practice claimed to be reckless given the novel coronavirus outbreak pursuant to 201 KAR 5:040 related to Unprofessional Conduct.

Due to the nature of this respiratory illness, the Board highly encourages its licensees to utilize face masks and other similar isolation whenever possible for patients that must be seen. These actions will not only protect patients but you as a licensee, your employees, and Kentucky families.

We understand the financial difficulties this decision will cause our providers and their staff. However, it is imperative that all health care providers in the state are on the same page in order to "flatten the curve" and beat this disease.

The Board recommends that an office or clinic refer to the [CDC recommendations](#) on how best to serve patients at this time. Please stay up to date on COVID-19 in Kentucky by visiting <https://kycovid19.ky.gov/>.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan L. Shrewsbury, O.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'D' at the end.

Dr. Jonathan Shrewsbury, O.D.

President, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners