



KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

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April 2, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

Fellow Kentucky Optometrists,

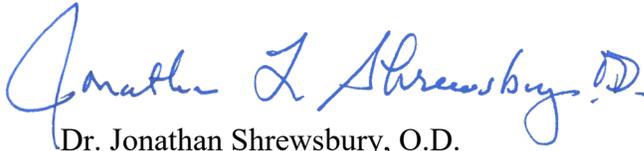
First of all I want to thank you as a whole for the positive response that was given to the Governor's call to limit our office visits to emergency office encounters only. There were a few minor bumps at first, but as a profession, we can be proud that we stepped up when asked to. We had to make sure we were doing what was best for our staffs, our patients, and the health of the community and state in which we live. As an agency of the state government, we were not mandated until a few days later, but highly encouraged to abide by the CDC guidelines that on the Tuesday before, excluded specifically "routine eyecare." So once again, thank you for understanding and cooperating with the recommendations without having to be mandated initially. This was a KBOE issue, and while we did consult with association leaders, in the end we had to make the call.

With that being said, where do we go from here? We have made it through relicensure for the 2020 year and have CE requirements to work on for the next renewal. I want to assure you that we are assessing our ability as a Board of Examiners to provide CE accommodations, and reasonable process revisions to the extent permissible by law. We have some statutory obligations such as the requirement that ETP hours are to be obtained in person, and there are limits on the number of CE hours acquired online, etc. Unfortunately, these can't be waived as we have strong laws for a reason. Even though the spring KOA meeting has been cancelled, as a board we will still meet by either conference call or at the board office, if allowed. Carson Kerr is our new Executive Director, and as an attorney, he will help guide us through this. Remember, all of us on the board are practicing and licensed ODs like you. As such, we have the same difficulties that all

of you around the state have. We will seek out remedies, and there are very few things that are off of the table, other than full online CE which is ruled out by statute.

I will try to keep you informed as we move forward during this unprecedented time, but once again assure you that we will come up with some plan and guidance to get us all through this. Let's all take a deep breath, enjoy your time with family, and get ready to hopefully put all this behind us and emerge with a whole new appreciation for our freedoms and opportunities.

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