



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

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April 9, 2020

### ***COVID-19 UPDATE FROM THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS RELATED TO CONTINUING EDUCATION***

Fellow Kentucky Optometrists,

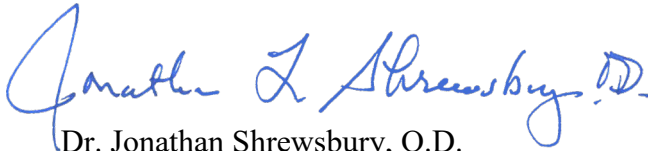
As was promised in the last Board of Examiners update, the KBOE scheduled a conference call to discuss continuing education requirements leading up to renewal in 2021. In evaluating our options for the year, looking into regulatory and statutory requirements, the board desired to make a decision that would take worse case scenarios into account and not leave you with so many uncertainties. It is obvious that none of us can look into the future and know for sure when we will be able to move forward in a normal manner. The Kentucky Optometric Association (KOA) was forced to cancel its Spring Conference, which was the next opportunity for an in-state, complete CE program. As we are statutorily limited to five hours of online CE, and the five ETP hours that are required to be in person, it is going to be difficult to obtain all the required hours this year. The next in-state, complete CE program is scheduled to take place in September at the KOA Fall Conference. Obviously, this date will not be convenient for all optometrists.

Therefore, it is within the board's discretion pursuant to KRS 320.240 and KRS 320.280 to make decisions that allow accommodations for CE licensing requirements. In order to provide optometrists additional time to complete the annual CE requirements, the 2020 requirements may be deferred for a period of one year. What this means is that the hours will still have to be attained, but as a current license holder, we will have a two-year period to accumulate the 40 hours of continuing education. If, for example, you obtain 20 hours this year then nothing will change, but if you can only attend 10 hours, then you will be required to make up 30 credit hours next year. That means you could take 10 hours online this year, usually 5 per year, and then make up the rest in live CE in 2021. Keep in mind you still have to go online to receive the two CE credit hours in

pain management this year if you have a DEA certificate. The DEA requirement is included within your 20 hour requirement, but we cannot waive that CE as we have no control over that state requirement. If you are a licensed O.D. only needing 15 hours, then this can be spread over the two year period. Please remember that for CE to be approved, CE must be offered by a school of optometry, a school of medicine, association, or regional meeting such as SECO, Vision Expo, etc. New COPE approved “live CE” does not qualify as in-person CE. It is acceptable as online CE, but not live and in-person.

I hope this notice regarding CE requirement revisions finds everyone safe and continuing to do the responsible thing. We will all get through this together, and we can be proud that we did the responsible thing for all concerned.

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