



KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

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June 24, 2021

COVID-19 STATEMENT FOR KENTUCKY LICENSED OPTOMETRISTS

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has taken very serious the threat posed by the novel coronavirus outbreak in state and across the globe and has responded in kind.

On July 11, 2021 the Governor wrapped up his final COVID-19 Press Conference, and issued a new Emergency Executive Order. **Relevant to Optometrists, their employees, and patients is the language included in the Executive Order that states, “(a)ny person in a healthcare setting shall wear a face covering.” All COVID-19 Guidelines published by the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners on optometry.ky.gov, the Healthy at Work Requirements and the Healthy at Work website are rescinded.** Each licensed optometrist shall be relied upon to exercise their professional judgment to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and to keep patients safe. According to Dr. Stack, the Kentucky Department of Public Health will continue to be your source for information and education as circumstances warrant. Best practices and recommendations for preventing COVID-19 remain available at KYCOVID19.ky.gov.

It should be noted that current guidance from the American Optometric Association and Centers for Disease Control Guidance recommend and encourage social distancing measures, increased hand hygiene (access to soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizer, tissues), respiratory hygiene (face masks and respirators), and increased cleaning and disinfection.

OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard.

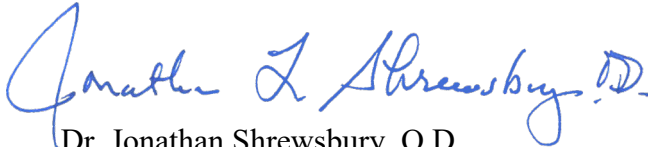
“The Occupational Health and Safety Administration recently released a COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard for healthcare facilities. The AOA regulatory team released guidance to AOA members through *Week in Focus* on June 17. The main takeaway for most doctors is to continue to screen all non-employees prior to entry into the practice/facility. Screening is flexible, and could include verbal questions, electronic questionnaires, or any other means of asking questions either before arrival or at the time of arrival at the

practice/facility. If a practice/facility is not screening all non-employees and denying entry to those with suspected symptoms of COVID-19, then it is required to have a detailed COVID-19 response plan to limit exposure in the workplace. The AOA guidance to members contains additional information regarding the components of a COVID-19 plan.” American Optometric Association.

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Thank you again for your patience and professionalism during these circumstances.

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