

In addition to caring *for* our Brighton community, we care *about* our Brighton community. Given the growing concerns regarding COVID-19, we have decided to continue seeing patients for emergent and annual eye exams, but will be reducing our days in the clinic, effective March 30th, 2020.

To ensure your accessibility to us during this time, while also keeping ourselves and our patients safe, we are taking the following precautions:

- Cleaning the office regularly and thoroughly.
- Decreasing the number of office days to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Limiting the number of people accompanying patients to the office. Unless they are pertinent to the exam, we ask that they remain at home or in the car.
- Forwarding all office calls to our personal cell phones so we are still reachable on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while also responding to emails.
- For those who are feeling sick or are unable to make it to the office during our regular hours, we have implemented a telemedicine platform. We will NOT be using this platform for comprehensive eye exams, but if you have a red eye or swollen eyelid, for example, please call our office, and we will coordinate a remote evaluation for you. This will be available during our normal business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm.
- And finally, if you need to order glasses or contacts, just call or send an email, and let us know what you need.

We understand that you may be experiencing uncertainty in your life right now. We are in this together. As a small business, the impact of COVID-19 to our practice is profound. We truly appreciate your support during these unprecedented times. We need to support each other to get our community back up and running.

Additionally, here is some important information about contact lens use and COVID-19.

- Contact Lens Wear is Safe.** Despite myths and misinformation that have arisen over the past 48 hours, contact lens wear remains a safe and highly effective form of vision correction for millions of people worldwide.
- Proper Hand Washing is Essential.** When using contact lenses or glasses, carefully and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water followed by drying your hands with unused paper towels. For contact lens wearers, this should occur before every insertion and removal.
- Disinfect Contact Lenses.** Contact lens wearers should either dispose of their daily disposable lenses each evening, or regularly disinfect their monthly and two-week lenses according to manufacturer and eye care professional instructions. FEOB's preferred disinfecting solution is ClearCare.
- Disinfect Glasses.** Some viruses, such as COVID-19, can remain on hard surfaces for a few hours to multiple days, which can be transferred to glasses wearers' fingers and faces, especially for presbyopes (people generally over the age of 40). Most presbyopes require reading glasses, and they may be putting them

on and taking them off their face multiple times a day. This age group appears to be among the more vulnerable population for developing COVID-19, as compared with contact lens wearers, who are typically younger.

- **Discontinue Lens Wear Only if Sick.** Ceasing contact lens wear when sick is advised, consistent with guidance for other types of illness.
- **Glasses are Not Proven to Offer Protection.** There is no scientific evidence that wearing glasses provide protection against COVID-19 or other viral transmissions.

We are here for you, and together, we will get through this difficult time. Please take care of yourself and those who need you!

Warm regards,

Family Eye Care of Brighton