

Recommended Practices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Optometry Facilities – Interim Guidance 08/05/20

Phase 1–2: No evidence of community spread

The following are interim guidelines for the use of PPE in the optometry facility. Given the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in Yukon, it is not recommended to assume and treat each patient as suspect for COVID-19. Rather, each patient encounter should be evaluated based on risk factors for COVID-19. The presence or absence of risk factors will direct the provider or staff member to the recommended PPE for that particular encounter.

Please call and screen each patient 24 hours prior to their scheduled visit. The presence or absence of risk factors will direct the provider or staff member to the recommended steps for that particular encounter. We strongly recommend the utilization of a virtual health platform for patient care, if applicable.

Risk factors for COVID-19:

- Any travel within the past 14 days outside of Yukon
- Any close, prolonged contact within the past 14 days with someone who is ill or on self-isolation due to travel or illness
- Presence of any of the following in a person without history of sick contact or travel: fever and/or chills, cough, difficulty breathing

If any one of the above risk factors is present, it is recommended to postpone the visit until the patient has been evaluated by a medical provider and is no longer symptomatic, or until the self-isolation period is complete as directed by their health care provider. For those who have screened positive for symptoms, please advise the patient to call 811 or complete the online Yukon COVID-19 self-assessment as further evaluation and/or testing may be required. If your patient requires urgent, essential evaluation and treatment, please follow the process and recommendations outlined in the table below.

The presence of any one of the above risk factors will indicate the need for augmentation of Routine Practices.

What are Routine Practices?

Routine Practices are the infection prevention and control (IPC) “practices for use in the routine care of all patients at all times in all healthcare settings and are determined by the circumstances of the patient, the environment and the task to be performed.”¹ Central to these Routine Practices is a point-of-care (POC) risk assessment. A POC risk assessment is performed by healthcare workers to determine which IPC measures are appropriate to assure safe patient care, given the symptoms of the patient and the intended interaction, and to protect the healthcare worker from exposure to infection (such as exposure to body fluids, respiratory secretions, sharps, etc.).

¹ “Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in healthcare settings.” 2017-09-05.

www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections/part-a.html Accessed 2020-04-20

Routine practices include, but are not limited to:

- Point-of-care risk assessment
- Hand hygiene (either soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- Aseptic technique
- Patient placement and flow
- Appropriate use of PPE
- Management and cleaning of the patient care environment



The continuation of basic public health measures shown to reduce the risk of transmission and acquisition of COVID-19 is imperative to all interactions:

- **Physical/social distancing**
- **Hand hygiene**
- **Respiratory etiquette**

Additional measures can be put in place to help to create a safer environment for the patient and staff. Such environmental measures and visual cues include:

- Visual cues and signage at doors encouraging patients to call ahead if symptomatic
- Visual cues and signage re-enforcing good hand hygiene practices and respiratory etiquette
- Plexiglass barrier for administrative staff/screeners
- Duct tape or other visual cue indicating appropriate spacing between patients
- Staggering scheduled appointments in order to maximize capacity for physical distancing in the health center

The tables on the next two pages indicate the appropriate PPE for patient care based on target personnel and activity. If there are no COVID-19 risk factors, continue Routine Practices relevant for the intended interaction.

Appropriate PPE for patient care based on target personnel and activity.
 If there are no COVID-19 risk factors, continue Routine Practices relevant for the intended interaction.

Key: Patients Staff Environmental Services

Target space	Target personnel	Activity/Interaction	Recommended practices
Screening/ triage area	Staff (blue)	Screening or greeting a patient, not involving direct contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain at least 2 metres separation or Behind plexiglass
	Patients without respiratory symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19 (pink)	Being screened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Maintain at least 2 metres distance
Clinical space	All staff (blue)	Tasks that do not involve patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain at least 2 metres separation Regular practices of respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene
Consultation room	Patients without respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19 (pink)	Waiting for evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Maintain at least 2 metre distance from other patients
	Staff (blue)	Performing an examination of a patient without respiratory symptoms and absence of COVID-19 risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Consider use of slit-lamp shield and/or surgical/procedural mask Routine Practices including a POC risk assessment
	Patients without respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19 (pink)	Undergoing an evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene
All patient care areas	Environmental services (yellow)	Cleaning and decontamination of patient care areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine cleaning, any equipment shared between patients must be cleaned and disinfected **

** Additional information on appropriate cleaning practices in the medical offices can be found here – Clinical guidance documents:
www.yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/health-concerns-diseases-and-conditions/find-information-health-professionals

For patients with the presence of risk factors for COVID-19, please follow the recommended practices below, if treatment cannot be postponed or delayed.

Target space	Target personnel	Activity/Interaction	Recommended practices
Screening/ triage area	Screener/ administrative staff	Screening or greeting a patient, not involving direct contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least 2 metres separation or • Behind plexiglass
	Patients with respiratory symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19	Being screened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Give tissues for respiratory hygiene • Maintain at least 2 metres distance • Assure safe disposal of used tissues
Clinical space	All staff	Tasks that do not involve patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least 2 metres separation • Regular practices of respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene
Waiting room	Patients with respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Waiting for evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Respiratory etiquette • If possible, isolate in room or in a designated area. If not feasible, maintain at least 2 metres from other patients
Consultation room	Optometrist	Performing an examination of a patient with respiratory symptoms and absence of COVID-19 risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Droplet and contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical/procedural mask • Gown • Gloves • Goggles or face shield
	Patients with respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing an evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Respiratory etiquette
All patient care areas	Environmental services	Cleaning and decontamination of patient care areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine cleaning, any equipment shared between patients must be cleaned and disinfected **

*Additional information on appropriate cleaning practices in the medical offices can be found here: www.yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/covid-19_guidance_for_clinical_staff_in_family_physician_offices_final_march_30_2020.pdf

**Patients with respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19 are encouraged to use the self-assessment test online, call 811 or visit the Respiratory Assessment Centre (RAC) for further evaluation. Those in the community with symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19 are encouraged to call the community health centre for special arrangement.