



## Post COVID-19 Era and Ophthalmology Practice

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In the wake up the global pandemic of novel corona virus and its effects, the entire world has been in its knees for almost 4 months now. It has crushed economy in various countries and has brought the recession again on its peak. Global markets have either stops or are in very bad stage. Many big companies have laid off their employees and declared themselves bankrupt.

any organization. It is understandable that it will be difficult for any organization to continue pay their expenses without generating revenues. Since, the market is starting to open once again after the pandemic it is assumed that it may take another few months to come back to normal life of business.



Figure 1



Figure 2

COVID-19 has affected every types of industries including health industry and ophthalmology is not inevitable being a part of the health industry. As per the government guidelines, apart from emergency care, the routine ophthalmology and optometry practice has stopped for several weeks and now slowly they are initiating their practice back to the normal. But things are not going to be same for another few months because majority of people are still skeptical to visit any hospital due to scare of the disease.

### How to tackle the situation

When usual business is not functioning as per usual terms then there come substantial financial and operational challenges to run

American Academy of Ophthalmology has issued guidelines to start back the practice and surgeries. The most important thing there is to follow the precautionary measures so that the virus can be contained and there is no spread of the virus particles [1,2].

### Main points to remember

- Limit the patient visits, allow patients only with prior appointment and who requires urgent medical attention, ask experienced optometrist or junior ophthalmologist to handle the call for appointments to assess the emergence for patient appointments

- Face masks should be made compulsory for every staffs and patients, keep extra masks available in the reception desks so that if anyone comes without masks you can provide them one
- Hand sanitizers with more than 60% of ethyl alcohol should be placed in different places inside the hospital/clinics
- Put instruction posters about wearing masks, hand sanitizing and physical distancing where it is clearly visible to patients and staffs
- Instruct physical distancing of 1.5 meter between every person inside your hospital if possible, put individual chairs only, removes multiple sitting benches
- Patients who come to an appointment should be asked prior to entering the waiting room about fever and respiratory illness and whether they or a family member have had contact with another person with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 2 to 14 days. If they answer yes to either question, they should be sent home and told to speak to their family doctor about testing
- All devices and desks which comes contact with the patients should be sanitized regularly
- Keep an isolation room separately, use it only for patients with red eyes or conjunctivitis, as it has been seen that conjunctivitis is associated with COVID-19.

### Bibliography

1. [https://www.aao.org/headline/alert-important-coronavirus-context#disqus\\_thread](https://www.aao.org/headline/alert-important-coronavirus-context#disqus_thread)
2. Images source: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).

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