



KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

Andy Beshear
Governor

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Carson Kerr
Executive Director

March 18, 2020

COVID-19 ADVISORY FOR KENTUCKY LICENSED OPTOMETRISTS

The Commonwealth of Kentucky takes very serious the threat posed by the novel coronavirus outbreak in state and across the globe. In response the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners (“Board”) advises as follows:

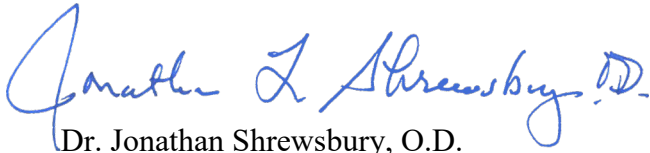
In accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [guidelines amended yesterday, March 17, 2020](#), recommending that everyone postpone all routine dental and eye care visits, and upon the advice of the Kentucky Governor’s Office ([See also Governor’s Order dated March 17, 2020](#)), and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (“Cabinet”), the Board urges all licensed Optometrists comply with the CDC recommendations and that **you postpone all routine eye-care visits and elective procedures consistent with those recommendations. This should begin immediately and continue until advised otherwise by this Board. However, the postponement of “routine eye care visits” does not require that all optometric services stop. This only applies to non-essential, non-urgent care.** Kentucky doctors of optometry are recognized as serving in essential health care roles, and provide essential health care to vulnerable citizens. Pursuant to KRS 320.240, upon complaint, the Board shall have the authority to determine if a licensed optometrist is practicing optometry in violation of this advisory in such a manner that constitutes unprofessional conduct.

Due to the nature of this respiratory illness, the Board highly encourages its licensees to utilize face masks and other similar isolation whenever possible for patients that must be seen. These actions will not only protect patients but you as a licensee, your employees, and Kentucky families.

We understand the financial difficulties this decision will cause our providers and their staff. However, it is imperative that all health care providers in the state are on the same page in order to "flatten the curve" and beat this disease.

The Board recommends that an office or clinic refer to the [CDC recommendations](#) on how best to serve patients at this time. Please stay up to date on COVID-19 in Kentucky by visiting <https://kycovid19.ky.gov/>.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan L. Shrewsbury, O.D.". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "JL" being particularly prominent.

Dr. Jonathan Shrewsbury, O.D.

President, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners

Enclosure



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES**

**Andy Beshear
Governor**

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**Eric C. Friedlander
Acting Secretary**

**Wesley W. Duke
General Counsel**

ORDER

March 17, 2020

On March 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear signed Executive Order 2020-215, declaring a state of emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of COVID-19 virus, a public health emergency. Pursuant to the authority in KRS 194A.025, KRS 214.020, and Executive Order 2020-215, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Public Health, hereby orders the following directives to reduce and slow the spread of COVID-19:

1. By 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2020, all public-facing businesses that encourage public congregation or, that by the nature of the service to the public, cannot comply with CDC guidelines concerning social distancing, shall cease all in-person operations.
2. These public-facing businesses that must close include entertainment, hospitality and recreational facilities, community and recreation centers, gyms and exercise facilities, hair salons, nail salons, spas, concert venues, theaters, and sporting event facilities.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, businesses providing food, food processing, agriculture, industrial manufacturing, feed mills, construction, trash collection, retail, grocery and consumer goods, home repair/hardware and auto repair, pharmacy, and other medical facilities, biomedical and healthcare, post offices, insurance, banks, gas stations, laundromats, veterinary clinics and pet stores, warehousing, storage, and distribution, public transportation, and hotel and commercial lodging may remain open, subject to limitations provided in prior



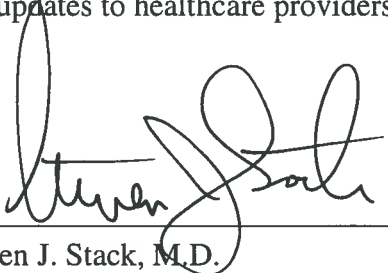
orders, but must to the extent practicable implement Centers for Disease Control guidance, including:

- maintaining a distance of 6 feet between persons;
- ensuring employees practice appropriate hygiene measures, including regular, thorough handwashing;
- ensuring that employees who are sick remain home; and
- regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

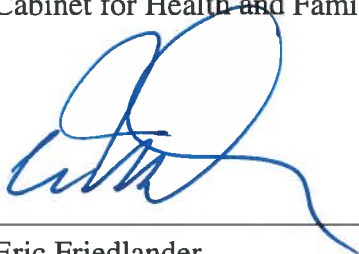
4. Public-facing businesses that remain open shall post the attached sign at all entrances.

5. The Department of Public Health hereby delegates to local health departments the authority to take all necessary measures to implement this Order.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will monitor these directives continuously and may extend the directives beyond their current expiration date. The Cabinet will continue to provide information and updates to healthcare providers during the duration of this Public Health Emergency.



Steven J. Stack, M.D.
Commissioner of Public Health
Department of Public Health
Cabinet for Health and Family Services



Eric Friedlander
Acting Secretary
Governor's Designee

Do you feel sick?



If you are sick or have been in
the last 24 hours,
please **DO NOT ENTER.**

To prevent the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick.

¿Se siente enfermo?



Si está o ha estado enfermo
en las últimas 24 horas,
por favor **NO ENTRE.**

Para prevenir la propagación de gérmenes:

- Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón.
- Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.
- Cúbrase la boca cuando tosa o estornude.
- Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.
- Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y las superficies que se tocan frecuentemente.
- Quédese en casa cuando esté enfermo.