A message from our Chief Professional Officer

COVID-19 has presented the Optometry and Ophthalmology communities with a unique challenge in how we manage daily operations. Though vision care may not be the first thought on many minds in this climate, our offices are among the healthcare facilities remaining available to those who may require care during this crisis.

As many of you are aware the CDC recently issued a <u>statement</u> asking the public to "postpone routine dental and eyecare visits" in the coming weeks. This same statement also emphasized the importance of prioritizing urgent and emergency visits and procedures. All employees are doing what we can to serve the public, and are complying with these guidelines for the safety of our doctors, staff and patient communities.

Effective Monday, March 23rd, our Optometry offices will remain open on a limited hours basis (typically 12pm - 3pm) to take care of emergent cases as needed, as well as allow for patients to pickup medically necessary eyewear and contact lenses. In these uncertain times, patients should be confident they will have the required vision correction available to them.

We are also proud to have deployed an Employee Grant to ensure our office employees continue to be paid over the next few weeks of uncertainty. We want each of our patients to know that the friendly face you see at your annual exam each year is being taken care of as best we can. Our commitment to our patients, our doctors and our staff remains in the forefront of our minds as we work through this pandemic together.

At this time, we are not aware of additional changes or mandates to come. But the situation continues to evolve on an hourly basis. We will continue to react quickly and keep you informed as information becomes available.

Visit your office's <u>website</u> to confirm these limited hours for the office near you. We're committed to serving the community.

Take care, stay healthy, and we will see you soon.

James J. Wachter, O.D. Chief Professional Officer