

March 7, 2022

Covid-19 Guidelines for Optometrists in Nova Scotia

On March 21 2022, the province of Nova Scotia will enter Phase 3 of the reopening plan. While many restrictions will be lifted, it is important to be cognizant that we are still working in a pandemic environment. We will still have patients and staff that are vulnerable. The health authority is modifying their protocols. Please refer to the NS public health website for up-to-date changes.

Optometrists are leaders in the provision of eye care in Nova Scotia. It is important that some procedures and guidelines remain in place in health care facilities. Throughout the pandemic, optometric clinics have been encouraged to exceed the minimum standards. It is important we continue to ensure a high level of safety for ourselves, employees, and patients.

The NSCO and NSAO both support COVID-19 vaccinations and encourage all our members to immediately book a vaccination if you have not already done so.

Continuing to adhere to strict disinfection and infection control protocols is mandatory.

The province is dropping masking requirements in public spaces. Working in an optometry clinic often requires the doctor or staff to work in close proximity to the patient. Although it will no longer be a requirement to wear a mask, the NSCO is recommending Optometrists, staff and patients continue to wear masks. It is important that patients are made aware of this and any additionally protocols your office chooses to have, in advance of their appointment.

Optometrists should continue to be aware that COVID-19 is considered a workplace hazard. Employers are obligated to protect employees from potential workplace hazards. Failure to protect employees can result in action from Occupational Health and Safety.