Safety During Covid-19: How Eye Care Has Changed

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1. Worker & Patient Safety

Starts before the patient comes to the office!

- Pt called to make sure they wear mask
- Are told no one can come into the building
- Are screened for symptoms
- Tell them to pay co-pay online

If symptoms, Doctor decides how urgent.

https://www.aao.org/practice-management/article/pre-encounter-patient-communication-improves-effic
Arriving at the office

• Screening station at every entrance.
• Suggestions for screening protocol:
  • Ask if they have symptoms?
  • Ask if they have been with someone who is sick?
  • Take their temperature

In the office: Healthy Patient

• Physical Distancing at check in check-in and the waiting room
• Any problems, contact the Doctor

In the office: Sick Patient

• Designate an “isolation” room
• Patients should have N95 mask* & face shield
• Workers should have N95 mask, face shield, gown, gloves

During the Exam

• Mask
• Gloves
• Slit lamp shield
• No talking during exam
• Only necessary individuals in exam room
During the Exam

- Face shield from manufacturer or home made
- [https://www.zeiss.com/meditec/int/med-support-now.html](https://www.zeiss.com/meditec/int/med-support-now.html)

After the Exam

- Disinfect room and all equipment
- Wash hands soap & water or alcohol based sanitizer
- Wash Face shield

What we tell patients

- Avoid eye rubbing/touching face
- If you do, wash hands
- Stock up on eye drops
- Glasses do afford some protection
- Contact lenses are OK but require touch, so better to wear glasses.
Equipment Disinfection

Masks

Nonperioperative N95 Mask Reuse Checklist

Goal:
Reuse N95 masks based upon CDC guidelines for pandemic COVID-19 of five donning and doffing uses.

Definition:
A “use” is defined as applying a reusable N95 mask to employee’s face and removing it. If an employee used the mask for the entire day for multiple cases without removal, it would count as one use.

Standard Operating Procedure

☐ 1. Employee must be fit tested specifically for the N95 mask available in their work area prior to use.
☐ 2. When donning, place reusable N95 mask on. Place a simple mask over top of the N95 mask.
☐ 3. When doffing, remove the simple mask and discard.
☐ 4. Perform hand hygiene.
☐ 5. Remove the N95 mask by touching the outer elastic band.
☐ 6. Place the used N95 mask in a brown paper bag.
☐ 7. Perform hand hygiene.
☐ 8. Label the bag with employee name and tally for the time used. Each time the reusable N95 mask is worn and removed, add one tally to the employee brown bag.
☐ 9. Discard N95 mask after five uses.

Applanation Tonometer Tips

• Sodium hypochlorite (dilute bleach)
• Wipe clean tonometer tips
• Disinfect them by immersing for 5 to 10 minutes in either 5000 ppm chlorine or 70% ethyl alcohol.”
• Five thousand parts per million is equivalent to 1:20 household bleach.

Source: AAO
From Zeiss: VF Bowl

- 70% alcohol, but please refer to the device user manual for a list of other appropriate cleaning and disinfecting agents.
- The HFA bowl is a specialized surface. It is not intended to be regularly cleaned. Any frequent contact could degrade the reflective surface of the bowl, which can damage the device and impact performance.

www.zeiss.com/meditec/int/med-support-now.html

Visual Field Bowl

- Dr. Douglas Anderson: don't touch the interior of the bowl, it could alter its reflectivity resulting in aberrant test results. **Virus particles will not leap off the bowl onto the patient.**
- Sanitize the surfaces that contact the patient - chin rest, forehead rest, response button, table top.
- Patient should wear mask.

Optos Devices

- Optos current recommendation is to use 70% IPA wipes to disinfect areas with patient contact.
- They continue to monitor the industry standards as well as guidance from sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Eye Drop Bottles

- Wear gloves when handling bottles and wipe clean with alcohol wipes or another disinfectant.
- Same technician uses same bottle.
  - Wipes bottle with alcohol or cidex.
  - Care is ALWAYS used not to touch lids with tip of bottle.
  - Our rule is (now and always) if tip touches eyelid, then discard.