



March 17, 2020

To World Council of Optometry (WCO) Members and Followers:

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) categorized the spread of Coronavirus, now commonly referred to as COVID-19, a pandemic. The WCO understands that the COVID-19 poses a threat and would like to encourage you to protect the health of you, your patients and your staff. Please see the below suggestions for protection against COVID-19:

- [review the general recommendations, guidelines and other information the WHO has provided on their website;](#)
- [review the rights, roles and responsibilities of health care providers;](#)
- [Stay informed and review advice from WHO for the public;](#)
- follow regional and national guidelines from public health agencies and your government;
- consider taking the WHO course entitled "[Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) for Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)";
- wash your hands thoroughly and/or use alcohol rub often;
- distance yourself from others when possible and self-isolate when advised

WCO will continue to monitor COVID-19 developments and will continue to provide updates to our members and followers.

To ensure the safety of our employees, beginning March 18th WCO staff will be working from home to protect themselves, their families and others during this time. We ask for your understanding as the office may be slower to respond/deliver requests.

We wish you good health, and if you have any questions please contact enquiries@WorldOptometry.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul Folkesson
World Council of Optometry President