



Dear World Council of Optometry (WCO) Members and Followers,

Throughout our 93 years of service, WCO has continually moved optometry forward worldwide through advocacy, education, policy development and humanitarian outreach. The talents and passion of our members have made such strides possible and will continue to do so though it may not be through our traditional ways. As promoters of positive healthcare change, we know the importance of tackling complex issues with patience and flexibility.

Our headquarters will continue to work remotely through **April 24**, and our committees will continue to meet on a regular, teleconference basis. We ask for your continued understanding as we may be slower to respond/deliver requests. We will also continue to update you as we monitor COVID-19 developments. WCO asks you as supporters of your fellow healthcare workers to encourage proper precautions sent out by local and global health organizations and government. Below is a review of the precautions we suggest:

- [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

Additionally, the World Health Organization has asked partners to partake in [this survey](#) to improve COVID-19 training. The survey takes less than 3 minutes to complete and submissions will remain anonymous.

During these precarious times, we take solace in our established interconnectedness as global citizens and healthcare advocates. We look forward to reconnecting in the future and in the meantime, please stay well.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul Folkesson  
World Council of Optometry President