

ISLE OF MAN OPTICAL PRACTICES

STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURE

This document sets out the Standard Operating Procedure to be followed by all Optician practices in the Isle of Man with effect from 19th April 2021, taking into account the current Covid-19 status of the Isle of Man and the latest Primary Care Guidance.

1. Practice Premises

- 1.1 Hand sanitiser to be available in prominent positions within the practice premises.
- 1.2 Signage encouraging the regular use of sanitisers by staff and patients.
- 1.3 Practices are open for business to patients considered **low risk** in terms of answering 'no' to the relevant Covid-19 questions.

2. Infection Control

- 2.1 Adherence to the appropriate Infection Control Policies and Procedures <https://covid19.gov.im/public-health-guidance/>.

3. Making Appointments & Risk Assessing Patients

- 3.1 When contacted by a patient the Practice needs to use the Covid questions as set out in the "Primary Care Guidance 19.04.21" and listed below in (Appendix A), to identify whether a patient is high or low risk.
- 3.2 If a patient is low risk they can be treated as normal.
- 3.3 If a patient is high risk they will be asked to make contact with the Practice again once they fall into the low risk category.
- 3.4 If the patient is high risk and has an optical emergency they should be sign-posted to the Hospital's Emergency Department.
- 3.5 All types of testing, such as emergency, patients requiring spectacles, routine and contact lens work is to be carried out for low risk patients, as determined in accordance with this Standard Operating Procedure.
- 3.6 When making an appointment, patient to be asked the questions set out in the "Primary Care Guidance 19.04.21". Patients who answer 'no' to each of the questions are considered **low risk** and can be seen for their routine optical care. Patients who answer 'yes' to any of the questions are considered **high risk** and as above will not be seen for routine case. However patients who are symptomatic for covid-19 should be directed to <https://covid19.gov.im/about-coronavirus/symptoms-and-self-assessment/> to undertake a self-assessment which will direct the patient for appropriate care.

- 3.7 It is not compulsory that opticians, staff and patients wear face masks but a patient can wear one if they choose to and request that the treating optician also wears one for their consultation.

4. Patient Arrival at Practice Premises and treatment

- 4.1 Patients, and anyone accompanying them (applicable in the case of children or vulnerable adult patients) should be asked the covid questions upon arrival at the optical practice to ensure they are still considered low risk.
- 4.2 Patients should be asked to sanitise their hands on arrival.

5. PPE

- 5.1 Ophthalmic professionals should be following the PPE guidance as set by the Department for use in a primary care setting <https://covid19.gov.im/public-health-guidance/>.

Risk Assessment

Every practice should carry out a risk assessment in line with their insurance and professional association for all elements of the practice.

Covid-19 Questions

Prior to any appointment being offered, and on arrival for an appointment, patients must be asked the following questions:

- a) Do you have a new or continuous cough? (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours – if the patient usually has a cough it may be worse than usual)
- b) Do you have a fever or temperature of more than 37.8C?
- c) Do you have a loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell or taste?
- d) Do you have a new onset of shortness of breath?
- e) Have you travelled to the Isle of Man in the past 21 days, or travelled to the Isle of Man in the past 14 days and are awaiting a swab result at either day 1, 6 or 13?
- f) Have you been advised to isolate for any reason?
- g) Are you living in a household with someone awaiting a COVID-19 swab or result?

This Guidance must be triggered if Patients or Residents are:

- Possible or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.
- Recent travel history outside of the Isle of Man in the 14 days.
- Contact with a known case of COVID-19 in the 14 days.

Level 1 PPE

Recommended PPE for primary, outpatient, community and social care by setting, NHS and independent sector

Setting	Context	Disposable Gloves	Disposable Plastic Apron	Disposable fluid-repellent coverall/gown	Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask	Filtering face piece respirator	Eye/face protection ¹
Any setting	Performing an aerosol generating procedure ² on a possible or confirmed case ³	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓	✓ single use ⁴
Primary care, ambulatory care, and other non-emergency outpatient and other clinical settings e.g. optometry, dental, maternity, mental health	Direct patient care – possible or confirmed case(s) ³ (within 2 metres)	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}
	Non-direct care - in reception/communal area with possible or confirmed case(s) ³ and unable to maintain 2 metres social distance ⁶ with no physical barrier in place	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}
Individuals own home (current place of residence)	Direct care to any member of the household where any member of the household is a possible or confirmed case ^{3,7}	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}
	Direct care or visit to any individuals in the extremely vulnerable group or where a member of the household is within the extremely vulnerable group undergoing shielding ⁷	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}	✗	✗
	Home birth where any member of the household is a possible or confirmed case ^{3,7}	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}
Community and social care, care home, mental health inpatients and other overnight care facilities, e.g. learning disability, hospices, prison healthcare	Facility with possible or confirmed case(s)- and direct resident care (within 2 metres)	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}
Any setting	Collection of nasopharyngeal swab(s)	✓ single use ⁴	✓ single use ⁴	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}	✗	✓ single or sessional use ^{4,5}

1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.

2. The list of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) is included [here](#).

3. A case is any individual meeting case definition for a possible or confirmed case: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases/investigation-and-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wu-cov-infection>

4. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).

5. A single session refers to a period of time where a health care worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g. on a ward round, providing ongoing care for inpatients. A session ends when the health care worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment. Sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of hospital cases. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.

6. Initial COVID assessment should take place before patients enter a waiting room

7. For explanation of shielding and definition of extremely vulnerable groups see guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>