



120 South Monroe Street · Tallahassee, FL 32301
Tel: (800) 399-2334 · Fax: (850) 878-0933

Notice on COVID-19

Dear FOA Member,

In the coming weeks we will face a unique challenge that none of us could have foreseen nor prepared for. Our FOA staff and board of trustees are monitoring the information as it becomes available on both a national and state level. We will share anything new as we receive it. Go to www.floridaeyes.org for a link to the latest AOA HPI distribution.

Governor DeSantis just yesterday reinforced to the citizens of Florida that they should remain calm. He reiterated that all basic supplies will still be available. These essentials include food, water, and power. As health care providers, we should continue to care for our patients, remain vigilant with our disinfection and contagious disease protocols, and maintain as much social distancing as possible by changing patient flow or how your patient schedule is comprised. Office staff should be pre-screening patients as they call for appointments and, when possible, separate the waiting room patients from those entering the office in case anyone enters with a cough and possible fever.

We recommend developing office policies to help your employees understand the situation and what the beginning steps may be for your office. An example can be found at www.floridaeyes.org. Staggering work schedules and offering paid time off to care for children whose schools have been closed may be an option. As the federal government decides if there will be any aid for small businesses in the coming weeks, continue practicing to your comfort level and keep your employees as informed as possible.

Your Florida Optometric Association Board of Trustees is always available to you should you have any questions, concerns, or new information. Feel free to reach out to us directly or through the Tallahassee office. My email is stameyecare@gmail.com and my phone is 904-616-0949.

Remain safe and strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. DeSantis", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bryan Stam, O.D.
Florida Optometric Association President



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