

June 10, 2020

From: COVID-19 Scientific Research Committee

To: Pandemic Response Team, CFD Testing Advisory Strategy Group and Med Staff

Dear Committees:

The Scientific Research Committee was asked to review the literature surrounding elective ophthalmology procedures as it relates to COVID-19 testing.

An ophthalmologist was one of the first people to contract COVID-19 in Wuhan, China from an asymptomatic patient who presented with conjunctivitis. He subsequently succumbed to the virus.

Research shows that at least 10% of patients have the virus in their tears. Due to the proximity to patients, ophthalmologists are at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19. Scientific literature supports the following recommendations:

- 1. PCR Testing
- 2. Contact Tracing
- 3. Screening Questionnaire
- 4. Risk Stratification
- 5. Appropriate PPE (N95 or PAPR)
- 6. Use of aerosol protection devices during intubation and extubation
- 7. Non-anesthetic manpower should be outside the operating room during intubation and extubation
- 8. Providine lodine disinfection for endonasal lacrimal and orbital procedures
- 9. An interval of 20-30 minutes between cases

We would like to raise this topic to the CFD Testing Advisory Strategy Group for consideration.

Sincerely,

COVID-19 Scientific Committee

| Dr. Alric Simmonds, MD, Chair | Dr. Benita David, DBA | Dr. Richard Pratley, MD |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ariel Watson, OTR/L, Project | Stephanie Harris, MLS, AHIP | Dr. Patricia Robinson, PhD, APRN, |
| Manager | Dr. Daniel Lupu, MD, PhD | NE-BC |
| Dr. Rizwan Ahmed, MD | Dr. Frederick Mansfield, MD | Dr. Steve Smith, MD |
| Nancy Aldrich, MLIS | Dr. Sarah Minor, PharmD, BCPS-AQ | Dr. Joshua Spiegel, MD MPH |
| Dr. Atalie Ashley-West, PhD, MPH, | ID | Dr. Jingwei Sun, PhD |
| CPH | Dr. Alberto Monreal, MD | Dr. Mandy Wollitz, PhD |
| Dr. Fortune Alabi, MD | Dr. Okorie Okorie, MD | Dr. Michael Yurso, Md |
| Dr. Amy Carr, PharmD, BCPS-AQ ID | Dr. Amay Parikh, MD | |

Lynn Penyak, MHR, CSPO

Chief Medical Officers

Cherie Danielson, BS

| Dr. Neil Finkler, MD | Dr. Vincent Carfi, MD |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dr. Jay Ball, MD | Dr. Dennis deLeon, MD |
| Dr. Victor Herrera, MD | Dr. Jennifer Keehbaugh, MD |
| Dr. Michael Keating, MD | Dr. Omayra Mansfield, MD |



Dr. Sanjay Pattani, MD Dr. David Sinclair, MD Dr. Alric Simmonds Jr., MD Dr. Joe Smith, MD

References

- Ali, M. J., Hegde, R., Nair, A. G., Bajaj, M. S., Betharia, S. M., Bhattacharjee, K., Chhabra, A. K., Das, J. K., Dudeja, G., Grover, A. K., Honavar, S. G., Kim, U., Mahesh, L., Mukherjee, B., Sethi, A., Sharma, M., & Singh, U. (2020). All India Ophthalmological Society Oculoplastics Association of India consensus statement on preferred practices in oculoplasty and lacrimal surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*, 68(6), 974–980. https://doi.org/10.4103/ijo.IJO_1415_20
- Karimi S., Arabi A., Shahraki T., & Safi S. (2020). Detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus-2 in the tears of patients with Coronavirus disease 2019. *Eye (London)*. Advance online publication. https://doi:10.1038/s41433-020-0965-2
- Sadhu, S., Agrawal, R., Pyare, R., Pavesio, C., Zierhut, M., Khatri, A., Smith, J. R., de Smet, M. D., & Biswas, J. (2020). COVID-19: Limiting the risks for eye care professionals. *Ocular Immunology and Inflammation*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1080/09273948.2020.1755442
- Tang, E., Wong, D., Chan, Y., & Li, K. (2020). Emergency ophthalmic surgeries during COVID-19-a Hong Kong perspective. *Graefe's Archive for Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology.* Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00417-020-04768-8
- Wong, D., Tang, E., Njo, A., Chu, C., Chau, S., Chow, T. L., Lim, H. S., Fung, K., & Li, K. (2020). Risk stratification protocol to reduce consumption of personal protective equipment for emergency surgeries during COVID-19 pandemic. *Hong Kong Medical Journal*, *26.* Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj208533



Disclaimer: The Scientific Committee was formed under the Medical Management Branch of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team. The committee's goal is to create a repository, interrogate research literature as it pertains to the treatment of COVID-19 and provides a rapid approval process. The algorithm below is the decision-making process that governs our decisions.

Scientific Subcommittee Approval Process

