



Dear Colleague

GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES (GOS) -

Information and resources regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19) for all community optometry practices and practice staff in Scotland.

Summary

1. This letter provides links to important information and resources regarding COVID-19 for all community optometry practices and practice staff in Scotland.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to copy and issue the Memorandum to this letter to all optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners on their Ophthalmic Lists.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Grisewood
Head of Primary Care, Scottish Government

5 March 2020

Addresses:

For action

Chief Executives,
territorial NHS Boards

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services
Scotland

Enquiries to:

Community Eyecare
Team
Primary Care Division
1st Floor East Rear
St Andrews House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Email:

eyecare@gov.scot

Summary

1. This Memorandum provides important information for all community optometry practices and practitioners regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

COVID-19

2. All community optometry practices and practitioners in Scotland should be aware of the following information which is available in relation to COVID-19:
 - Health Protection Scotland (HPS) has published online guidance for the initial management of patients who may present to a community optometry practice and have clinical symptoms and a travel history consistent with COVID-19: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-opticians-and-optometrists/>.

This guidance is subject to revision, so please always check on the above link to ensure that any guidance being referred to is the latest version. Further information, including links to guidance for travellers and the general public, can also be found on the main HPS COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>.

- NHS Inform has comprehensive general advice and information on COVID-19: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>.

Also available on the above NHS Inform webpage is a link to a communications toolkit for practices, including a poster, video and social media posts for organisations to print and share.

- NHS Education for Scotland has relevant online training resources for practice staff on TURAS, covering important topics such as hand hygiene: <https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/optometry.aspx>.
- The General Optical Council has issued a joint statement with other regulatory bodies on how they will continue to regulate in relation to COVID-19: https://www.optical.org/en/news_publications/Publications/joint-statement-and-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid19.cfm.

Enquiries

3. Any enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be emailed to eyecare@gov.scot.

Primary Care Division,
Directorate for Community Health and Social Care
Scottish Government
5 March 2020