

**ALABAMA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**  
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The Alabama Board of Optometry is statutorily created by the Alabama legislature and delegated with the authority to regulate the optometry profession in the interest of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

**March 18, 2020**

**Advisory for the Practice of Optometry in Alabama**

On March 13, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey proclaimed a state of emergency concerning the 2019 novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 in the state of Alabama.

Accordingly, the Alabama Board of Optometry requests that Alabama licensees protect patients and staff by following local and state public health department and CDC guidelines as published March 17, 2020.

Monitor CDC guidelines at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html>

Presently, the CDC guidelines include:

1. Continuing to care for ocular urgencies and emergencies.
2. Postponing routine eye and vision care visits.

Monitor the Alabama Department of Public Health COVID-19 guidelines at:

<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

Additionally, consider measures to prevent overcrowding of patient waiting areas:

1. Spreading out/staggering patient appointments.
2. Limit the number of people accompanying the patient, have them wait in their car.
3. Remove magazines or other materials in the waiting area that may be contaminated.