

South Vancouver Optometry Clinic COVID-19 Safety Measures

A big thank you to all of those who have visited us during the pandemic. We appreciate your loyalty and support. As of **July 1, 2021**, BC's province wide mandate of wearing masks indoors is being lifted. Isn't awesome that we have worked together to flatten the curve! However, we strongly encourage that face masks be worn in the clinic due to the close proximity in which we work while providing quality eyecare to our patients. **We as a clinic are continuing to wear masks as it is an additional layer of protection we are providing to our patients to keep them feeling safe during their visit with us, especially for those who are not yet fully vaccinated or are more vulnerable due to health risk issues.** Although the curve is flattened, COVID-19 variants are not gone. With this in mind, we take guidance from government health authorities to ensure our policies and safety practices align with their protocols to keep all of us safe.

1. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment): All team members in the clinic will be wearing PPE consisting of face masks, face shields, medical scrubs, and gloves (as needed).
2. Screening questions on patient intake forms (which will be emailed to the patient prior to the appointment), at the appointment reminder and when the patient arrives at the clinic, so that the clinic remains COVID-19 free.
3. There will continue to be a limited number of patients in the clinic at one time. As a result, visits are by appointment only, so that our entire team will be available to service you for the time you spend with us.
4. All patients must wash their hands upon entering the clinic with hand sanitizer/alcohol wipe available at reception desk.
5. **All patients 5 years and older are required to wear a mask/face covering from the time they enter until the time they leave the clinic so long as they are physically able. This request is a result of the close proximity in which we work to provide quality eyecare services.**
6. Patients are asked to come alone to their appointments unless another person is necessary (ie parent of child, mobility aide, translator). Parents of older children will be asked to wait in their vehicles whenever appropriate.
7. Patients can call us from their vehicle when they arrive and can wait in their vehicle until they are ready to be seen if they prefer. Patients are to wait in designated chair, or in their vehicle and we will text them when ready for them. Please leave unnecessary items in their car or outside.
8. To respect social distancing, we have minimized the number of available chairs in the waiting area, mounted sneeze guards at the front desk, mounted face shields to some of our equipment, applied polyethylene film for easier cleaning/disinfection.
9. All surfaces (including but not limited to) door handles, counters, furniture, (all touch points) in the exam room and throughout the clinic are cleaned and disinfected between patient visits.
10. All individually handled frames in the dispensary are washed and treated with UV-C after each encounter.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER! We look forward to providing eyecare services to you soon!