



**College of Optometrists of Ontario
Council Meeting
May 14, 2020
APPROVED**

Attendance:

Dr. Patrick Quaid
Dr. Richard Kniaziew
Ms. Suzanne Allen
Ms. Kathryn Biondi
Dr. Linda Chan
Dr. Lisa Christian
Mr. Ravnit Dhaliwal
Dr. Camy Grewal
Ms. Winona Hutchinson

Mr. Bashar Kassir
Mr. Howard Kennedy
Mr. Albert Liang
Dr. Lindy Mackey
Dr. Annie Micucci
Dr. Christopher Nicol
Mr. Narendra Shah
Dr. William Ulakovic
Dr. Marta Witer

Regrets:

Staff:

Ms. Maureen Boon, Registrar | CEO
Ms. Hanan Jibry
Ms. Amber Lepage-Monette

Mr. Justin Rafton
Mr. David Wilkinson

- 1 **1. Call to Order:** P. Quaid called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone in
2 attendance.
3
4 P. Quaid provided a quick background of the Return to Work guidance document and the reason for
5 today's meeting. He also noted the College sought public feedback through the Citizen's Advisory Group
6 (CAG), which expressed concerns about resumption of non-urgent care, but were supportive of
7 increased safety measures.
8
9 A preliminary Zoom poll reflected Council support for the document – nine Council members voted 5/5
10 (i.e., "I love the current version") and eight voted 4/5 (i.e. "I can live with the current version."). The
11 meeting was then opened up to broader discussion.
12
13 **2. COVID-19 Guidance: *Return to Work: Infection Prevention and Control for Optometric Practice***
14
15 Council discussed several key anticipated questions, including the mask requirement for patients and
16 care providers; processes for optometrists seeking clarification on the guidance; and how the College
17 would address complaints that may arise from optometrists not following provincial or College
18 guidance. In addition, Council provided specific feedback and asked questions related to physical
19 distancing in the school and office settings. Clarification about the clinical necessity of automated visual
20 fields was also requested.

21 Council was reminded that the document will be revised as needed. The guidance document recognizes
22 that every practice is different and optometrists will need to exercise judgment.

23
24 In addition, an FAQ is being finalized that will address specific questions. With regard to complaints, the
25 public can always file a complaint and the College will follow due process

26
27 With regard to automated visual fields, the guidance doesn't change what constitutes standards of care;
28 it was suggested that the FAQ include some clarification regarding standards of care related to OCT and
29 retinal imaging.

30
31 P. Quaid turned the meeting over for M. Boon to clarify timing of the guidance release.

32
33 M. Boon reviewed the College plan, which is to release guidance by the end of the week. The Ministry of
34 Health may be making an announcement this afternoon; the College will wait to see what the
35 announcement includes prior to releasing the guidance.

36
37 Moved by W. Hutchinson and seconded by S. Allen **to release the document *Return to Work: Infection***
38 ***Prevention and Control for Optometric Practice.***

39
40 **Motion carried.**

41
42 P. Quaid asked if future revisions to the document could be reviewed by the Executive Committee to
43 expedite updates to the profession. Council supported this direction via a show of hands.

44
45 Council discussed some process issues related to revisions and revising the FAQ going forward, including
46 the issue of tele-optometry and documenting Standard Operating Procedures.

47
48 Council briefly discussed whether it should consider licensing optometrists prior to writing exams, as is
49 being done in the U.S. or if new graduates can practice under supervision.

50
51 M. Boon noted that registration requirements, including entry-to-practice (ETP) exam, are set out in
52 regulation, which cannot be changed by Council. Council has supported the ETP as an important part of
53 ensuring applicants have necessary skills. Under the regulation, the College does not have the ability to
54 provide a conditional license.

55 Council also asked about how the public will be informed of the guidance and expectations for care. It is
56 clarified that a patient FAQ is also being developed.

57
58 **3. Adjournment:** Moved by A. Micucci and seconded L. Christian **to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.**

59
60 **Motion carried**