

Vision Screening Safety Guidance During the (COVID-19) Pandemic

This document outlines guidance and considerations for modifying vision screening practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each event setting is unique and not all strategies will always be applicable.

Planning

- Consider moving screening location to a large, open space. If such a space is not available, leave doors or windows open to increase air circulation.
- Determine if the location enables separate entrance and exit doors. If possible, label doors clearly to ensure one-way foot traffic.
- Identify the records that need to be maintained in the event contact tracing is required and request or create a template for managing documentation.
- Mark floors to provide a visual guide for maintaining 6-foot distancing while waiting in line.
- Mark floors to provide a visual guide for maintaining 6-foot distancing between the screener and the child, and any accompanying adults.

Hand Hygiene

- Children must wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before and after screening.
- Screeners must wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water before screening, after any child contact, and at regular intervals throughout the day.
- If soap and water are unavailable, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.

Face Coverings

- Screeners and children should wear cloth face masks during screening. Screeners should not conduct vision screenings if they cannot wear a mask.
- Perform hand hygiene before putting on and after removing face masks.

- To put children at ease, screener’s may consider wearing a badge or sign with a smiling photo of their face.

Cleaning the Screening Location

- Ensure the physical location is cleaned and sanitized using [EPA-registered disinfectants](#) prior to use.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection, with special attention paid to high-touch areas such as doorknobs and table tops.
- Sanitize chairs used during vision screening between each use. Wash hands after sanitizing objects.
- Cleaning products should be secured and out of reach of children.
- When possible, have no-touch trash cans available.
- Do not allow food, beverages, or personal items (bags, stuffed animals, books) in the screening room/area.

Infection Control Guidelines

Sanitation practices are an important part of the vision screening procedures. Be sure to take appropriate measures to minimize the spread of infection and disease. Suggested steps for infection control include:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before beginning screening. Antimicrobial hand gel may also be used.
- Use a low-PH germicidal, quaternary ammonia chloride-based cleaner for general equipment cleaning (e.g., Sani-Cloth®). This type of cleaner is a broad-level disinfectant with disinfectant ability against bacteria, fungi, and viruses.
- Children whose eyes are red or draining should not be screened until clear.
- Vision screening instruments (photoscreeners, autorefractors, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning and end of each screening day.