

Greetings,

With the wide-spread news coverage, you're likely aware of the coronavirus (COVID-19) causing an outbreak of respiratory illnesses. We are staying alert to the latest response recommendations and are communicating regularly amongst Staff and Overseers to ensure we remain diligent. Below are some questions that we've heard and our response. Ultimately, we are relying on you to decide what is best for your family.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Claris Eye Care & Surgery open?

Yes, we are open during regular office hours at this time. If any changes occur, we will communicate via phone, email, texting, and reflect changes on the website whenever possible.

Are surgeries or other procedures still occurring?

Yes, all surgery is still occurring as scheduled at this time. If any change occurs, we will call as soon as possible to notify you and make alternate plans.

What kind of precautions are you taking?

We have an excellent, well trained staff who already do a fantastic job. We are diligently cleaning and disinfecting frequently used surfaces, door handles, chairs, exam rooms in addition to our normal, everyday procedures of cleaning the office. We are screening every person that walks in to our office.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

The well-being of our patients and staff is a priority. We can all contribute to safe environments, whether we're at home, school, work or other public places. Hand washing remains the most effective method of preventing the spread of germs, including coronavirus. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Here are some additional reminders we've gathered for paying attention to good respiratory etiquette and hygiene:

- Stay home when you are sick. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and follow the directions of your health care provider.
- When possible, avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid shaking hands and other unnecessary contact.
- Be mindful of personal space and keep a respectful distance. 3 feet is recommended.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or cover it with a tissue—then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a household cleaning spray or wipe.

UPDATES

Like many of you, Claris Eye Care & Surgery is paying attention to updates from organizations who are monitoring the illness, like the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). As of now, the MDH has posted these, among other recommendations:

- Information is changing quickly and misinformation is circulating. The [MDH website](#) and [CDC's Coronavirus Disease](#) website are the best places to get the most accurate information.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to reach out to us at (612)775-8009.

Current information

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19:

[Minnesota Department of Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

Best Regards,

Dr. Keith Carlson & Claris Staff