



NORTHWEST EYE SURGEONS

Dear Doctor,

As you know, COVID-19 cases are rising in our state and particularly throughout our Puget Sound communities. On Nov 15, Governor Inslee announced his plans for a four-week statewide set of restrictions in response to the spread of COVID-19 starting Nov 16 through Dec 14. **The revised restrictions do not impact healthcare practices.** As noted, previous phase guidelines still apply and healthcare is exempt from the new restrictions. You can find an overview of WA state restrictions available [here](#).

Northwest Eye Surgeons will continue to strictly follow the Governor's past proclamation and DOH guidelines with social/physical distancing, monitoring and maintaining sanitizing measures in place for patients and staff, and health screenings for everyone who enters our offices and surgical centers. We remain in full support of the Washington State response to stem the spread of COVID-19 and the associated essential restrictions on behavior. We all need to remain vigilant in dealing with this pandemic. Like many of you who are feeling tired of this virus, we too share this sentiment. However, we understand that if we work together as a community of dedicated doctors and providers of essential eye care, that we can keep our offices open and safe.

Many medical professionals in our community have noted that patients have been delaying their care because of a fear of contracting coronavirus. This drop in needed patient care is a concern. While we can understand their apprehensions, delaying care can allow diseases and severe conditions to progress and influence the degree of treatment and surgery. We urge you to reassure patients who need advanced eye care and surgery that we've insured a safe and caring environment at our facilities.

Our collaboration throughout this crisis is critical. Co-management and coordinated eye care has been, and continues to be, a bedrock principle of best practices to help manage your patients needing surgery and secondary medical treatment. We are resolved to help you through this crisis in any way we can. Let us know if you need guidance, and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

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