

Policy Statement for Optometrists During COVID-19 Pandemic

The Tennessee Board of Optometry has received numerous inquiries about guidelines for optometrists to follow regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Board remains committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee, the Board is limited in its authority by statute to the licensing and discipline of licensees in the optometric profession and the promulgation of rules that further clarify the Board's practice act.

Accordingly, the Board cannot legally establish guidelines for licensees to follow when returning to practice; however, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Board strongly recommends licensees review the information provided by the American Optometric Association and the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) COVID-19 web pages (<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html> and <https://covid19.tn.gov/>) for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted this 6th day of January, 2021 by the Tennessee Board of Optometry.