

AEC BEST PRACTICES FOR COVID-19

As we open up for more patient visits in our offices in the next few weeks please be mindful of best care practices in avoiding possible contamination and spread of the Covid-19 virus:

1. All employees are asked to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth when interacting with others in the office. A surgical or cloth mask is acceptable provided it is 2-ply and covers the nose and mouth. That means using a mask in the office at all times with very few exceptions such as having one's lunch or sitting at one's desk with no one within 6 feet of one's personal work area. It is best to leave the mask on the rest of the time even when walking around the office as it is hard to predict when another individual may come within 6 feet and inadvertently sneeze or cough. Our lunch rooms are open but because of the tight spacing we want to restrict them to no more than 3 people at a time to insure proper social spacing.
2. Please be mindful of not sharing your work space with another employee but if needed be sure to wipe down your immediate work space with disinfectant cleaner after using it and before someone else does. It is best also to do that when you start work in the morning and after you finish in the afternoon so it won't be neglected.
3. Some employees have had concern over possible transmission through the eye surface. There is no data to suggest that the virus can enter the body through the eyes. Infected individuals can exhibit conjunctivitis but that would come from hand to face contamination or through internal spread of the virus reaching the ocular surface. Nevertheless, although data is inconclusive regarding transmission directly into the eyes and subsequent spread throughout the body, we do suggest that employees wear their prescription glasses as an additional precaution. If you do not do that routinely and wish to have additional eye cover, the optical shop can fit you with a safety pair. Washing your glasses or goggles with soap and water frequently will keep them clean and free of the virus and it is best to avoid touching any part of your face, including your mask and glasses, when your hands are contaminated.
4. When triaging patients with possible conjunctivitis it is best to arrange for a Telehealth encounter with one of the providers before scheduling those patients as work-ins. If they do show up in the office with a "pink eye" especially accompanied with discharge, it is best to immediately isolate them in a designated room and to notify the provider so they can be attended to as quickly and as safely as possible.
5. All employees should record their temperature when entering the office and report any elevation above 99 deg Fahrenheit or 37 deg Celsius to their supervisor. If any employee has symptoms of the flu including but not limited to fever, cough, night sweats, generalized body aches, loss of smell or taste they are not to come into the office without first conferring with a supervisor.
6. We strongly recommend that all employees continue to exercise caution in their interactions outside the office and to adhere to the recommendations of the governor and the state health officials as they pertain to the pandemic. We anticipate that social distancing and limited group activities will be the norm for weeks to come.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND WE HOPE EVERYONE STAYS SAFE

DR RAFFOUL