



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce,
Community,
and Economic Development**

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

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The Alaska Board of Optometry recognizes the unprecedented circumstances optometry professionals have faced and continue to face during the COVID-19 pandemic. The suspension of non-essential procedures and health care has been beneficial in slowing the spread of the disease.

The Alaskan health care authorities have monitored the statewide situation closely, and have concluded through COVID-19 Health Mandate 15 that Health Care Providers listed in Section I of Health Mandate 15 will be able to resume services with detailed stipulations as described in Section II of Health Mandate 15.

The Alaska Board of Optometry reminds licensees that the conditions under which this care may resume **MUST** be provided in accordance and compliance with the directives of Health Mandate 15 Section II. Should a provider be unable or unwilling to comply with the conditions of this mandate, they must postpone such care until such time that they are able and willing to comply or until Health Mandate 15 is amended or rescinded.

As directed in Health Mandate 15, care that may be safely provided through telehealth services shall continue and the Board reminds providers that they must complete an application with the Telemedicine Business Registry prior to provision of such care.

Additionally, due to the inability to obtain in-person continuing education during the COVID-19 public emergency, the Alaska Board of Optometry has suspended the 10-hour limit on on-line, remote, and correspondence continuing education in 12 AAC 48.200(b)(4) for the licensing period ending December 31, 2020, and will accept all modalities of qualifying continuing education for this licensing period.

Information is changing rapidly. Please continue to frequently monitor communications from the Office of the Governor, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Board's website for any updated information and mandates.

Information is changing rapidly at both the national and state level. Please continue to frequently monitor the Board's communications as any updates to recommendations will be posted as soon as available.