



## MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, by Proclamation dated March 14, 2020, issued by Tate Reeves, Governor of the state of Mississippi, a state of emergency was declared pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section 33-15-11, in order to address the high risk of an outbreak of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, in the State of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the Proclamation invoked the emergency powers of the Governor pursuant to Miss .Code Ann. Section 33-15-11 (c ) (1) to temporarily suspend or modify any rule or regulation of a state agency which would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi State Board of Optometry, as an agency of the state of Mississippi wishes to comply with the Governor's proclamation and take those steps necessary to address access to needed optometric services/care to people in the state of Mississippi during this time of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi State Board of Optometry recognizing that the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve and is communicating regularly with government officials to monitor developments of the outbreak recommend to optometrists that they delay referrals for elective surgical procedures and postpone all routine eye exams, for a two-week period—a routine eye exam visit may be defined by the doctor as it pertains to the patient's symptoms, diagnosis and treatment; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, until action is taken by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to lift the declared emergency, the Mississippi State Board of Optometry authorizes all optometrists to utilize telehealth to avoid unnecessary patient travel both in-state and out of state; the Board will not enforce any statute, rule or regulation against the optometrists who chooses to do so; the recommended guidelines for such telehealth can be found in the Notification of Enforcement discretion for telehealth remote communications during the COVID 19 nationwide public health posted on [msbo.gov](http://msbo.gov).

**FURTHER**, except as specially stated herein, all other regulations remain in full force and effect.

**SO ORDERED AND APPROVED** by the Mississippi State Board of Optometry, this the  
18th day of March 2020.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

BY: 

---

Beverly Limbaugh, Executive Director