



## **Safety Guidelines for Resuming Clinical Care and Elective Surgery Amidst COVID-19**

The welfare of our patients, team members, and community remains our top priority amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Milan Eye Center has implemented the following safety protocols and guidelines since reopening our clinics and ambulatory surgery centers for patient care. These guidelines were developed in accordance with Georgia state orders, the Center for Disease Control guidelines, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines.

### **TELEMEDICINE**

Telemedicine will continue to be offered as an option for qualifying patients. This allows patients to connect and continue care with Milan Eye Center providers from the safety of their homes.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOLS**

Milan Eye Center has taken the necessary environmental precautions to ensure the health and safety of patients and team members.

- **All surfaces and equipment will be cleaned** regularly with germicidal wipes throughout the day. This includes exam rooms and testing/diagnostic equipment.
- **Plexi-glass barriers** have been installed in areas that require moderate-to-prolonged close contact between patients and team members.
- **Air Purification Systems** have been installed in all clinics and surgery centers
  - ***IQAir's Atem, HealthPro Plus, and HealthPro Compact purifiers*** offer the only technology with HyperHEPA filter, which delivers 99.5% purified air, and stops ultrafine particles down to 0.003 microns. (SARS-COV-2 virus is ~0.1 micron size)

### **STAFF PROTECTION / PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Personal protective equipment is required for all Milan Eye Center physicians and team members. Personal protective equipment is highly recommended for all patients and visitors.

- **All staff members will be required to wear:**
  - KN95 Masks (and face shields when applicable)
  - Single-use, disposable gloves
- **Patients and essential guests will be required to:**
  - Wear their own masks to the clinic or surgical appointment
  - Avoid wearing disposable or reusable gloves into clinic or ambulatory setting
    - Disposable gloves will be provided by request
  - Wash or sanitize their hands at the beginning and end of a visit or interaction
    - Patients will be given hand sanitizer upon arrival during the pre-screening process

### **CLINIC PROTOCOLS**

Screening of patients, physicians, and team members will remain an integral part of our process. By preventing sick and high risk individuals from entering a clinic or ambulatory setting, we can significantly reduce the risk of exposure.

- **Pre-screening prior to their visit by appointment confirmation phone call**
  - Patients will be asked a series of questions to assess any risk factors:
    - Have you been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19?



- Have you experienced any sudden loss of taste or smell?
- Do you and/or anyone you have been in contact with currently have a fever, any symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
- Patients will be reminded to bring a mask with them to their visit
- Patients will be asked to leave any non-essential items at home or in their vehicles
- Patients will be asked to limit any non-essential visitors during the clinical appointment
- **Check-in and screening upon arrival**
  - A staff member will inquire about any respiratory symptoms and take patients' and any guests' temperatures before entering the clinic
    - Patients will be given a label with the exam date and the temperature to verify that they have been screened.
    - Temperature over 100 degrees will result in an automatic cancellation of the visit.
  - Patients may bring their IDs, insurance cards, and items that are pertinent to their appointment
  - Patients can remain in the waiting room with a guest (if necessary or wanted) as long as both parties are masked and pre-screened
- **Self assessment for Milan Eye Center physicians and team members prior to starting work**
  - Temperature will be taken of every staff member and physician upon arrival to the facility
  - Team members will wear labels to reflect the date they were screened and the temperature that was taken
  - Employees are expected to self monitor for any respiratory symptoms and stay home, as appropriate, should any symptoms arise
- **Social Distancing restrictions**
  - Public areas, such as waiting rooms and dilation areas, have been reconfigured to maintain at least 6 ft of distance between individuals
  - Team members will monitor areas, such as waiting rooms and dilation rooms, for crowding
  - Patient movement will be limited during the visit as much as possible

## TESTING PROTOCOLS

Surgical patients will be in our surgical facilities for two hours or more on surgery day. Given the extended time on site and the close proximity required between patients and staff during surgical visits, Milan Eye Center has established the following guidelines for staff and surgical patients regarding COVID-19 testing:

- All clinical and surgical staff have undergone **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) COVID-19 testing** prior to return to the clinical setting
- **All symptomatic or "high risk" surgical patients are required to be tested prior to their surgical date**
  - High risk or symptomatic patients will receive Rapid COVID-19 Test before their surgical procedure (High risk is defined as patients that live in a retirement home or nursing facility; patients who are currently symptomatic; patients that have been in contact with someone who is symptomatic; patients that have been in contact with someone known to have COVID-19)
    - If a patient is symptomatic, they will receive the Rapid COVID-19 Test and the PCR test
  - Milan Eye Center has partnered with Peachtree Immediate Care for drive-thru testing
  - The results of the test will be shared with the patient and with Milan Eye Center
  - In the event of a positive COVID-19 result, the surgery will be automatically cancelled
  - Patients with a positive COVID-19 result should self-monitor and self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days