



What measures are being taken at Vance Thompson Vision to keep people safe?

Vance Thompson Vision is committed to continuing to provide the best care possible for our patients, and this includes creating a safe environment. We have implemented multiple layers of safety precautions, starting even before patients arrive at our office. Screening for symptoms and sick contacts starts with our phone team in preparation for your appointment, and is repeated with the addition of a temperature check on greeting at our office. Masks are another layer of safety and are aimed at prevention of asymptomatic spread. Every patient and staff in our office wears a mask at all times, provided by our organization. Lastly, we are making every effort to reduce time required in office for every patient by supplementing our in-office diagnostics and evaluation with information sharing via telecommunications.

Are there any measures that I as the patient need to take coming into Vance Thompson Vision?

We have taken many measures on your behalf including rigorous screening to create the safest possible environment. The only thing we ask is if you are not feeling well or have been in contact with someone who is sick, please stay home. We will be here to care for you and your vision when you are feeling better.

Is it safe to have eye surgery?

Yes. There have been no known cases of COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) transmission from eye surgery. All staff and patients will wear protective equipment including masks. Additionally, we have rigorous screening criteria to create the safest possible environment.

Can I get COVID-19 by having surgery?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread from person to person. While there have been no known cases of COVID-19 transmission from eye surgery, it is important to practice proper precautions like social distancing and diligent hand washing in the time leading up to and following your surgery.

How is Vance Thompson Vision respecting social distancing?

We are taking several measures to respect social distancing. We have greatly limited traffic in our atrium area by using a virtual waiting room where patients are called/texted before entering the building. This allows a “one patient to one nurse/technician” in and out system. We have asked patients to come into the building alone, keeping family and friends out of our building unless absolutely needed for mobility or cognitive reasons. Finally we have set up teams where half of our staff is at home on a rotational schedule.

Is it safe to bring my family with me to my appointment?

Many of our visits and procedures may require a driver. In accordance with our goal to limit the number of people in our office at one time, we ask that family or friends accompanying you to your appointment wait in the car or return to pick you up. Of course, there may be instances where it is critical to have someone with you, and we are sensitive to that and will allow one guest on a case-by-case basis.

Is Vance Thompson Vision currently testing patients for COVID-19?

We are not currently providing any in-house testing for COVID-19. However, we are staying up-to-date on the latest screening and testing guidelines and will work with local health care facilities to help obtain testing for patients as needed.

Can I get COVID in the eye?

Conjunctivitis from COVID-19 is a very uncommon feature of a patient with the disease. The conjunctivitis from COVID-19 is indistinguishable from other forms of viral conjunctivitis, or pink eye. Although it is very unlikely, it is possible that an infected patient to pass the virus to an unaffected person either by aerosol droplets landing on the conjunctiva or through hand to eye contact. Infectious virus has not yet been cultured from the conjunctiva or tears of any COVID-19 patient.