



Guidance for patients with neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic

Adapting clinic practice:



Patients with urgent needs and those requiring frequent management are being seen at this time.



Non-urgent appointments are being rescheduled.

Information regarding your upcoming appointment:

Planning:



- Before your appointment, your doctor's office may reach out to you regarding your current health status.
- Scheduling will be adapted to ensure minimal patients are in the waiting room.

During your visit:



- To reduce your time in clinic, you may not receive your regular visual acuity test, or eye scan.
- Your ophthalmologist may wear a mask with a plastic shield over their eyes and limit conversation during the examination.
- Your doctor's office may defer scheduling of your next appointment via phone.

Ways you can reduce the risk of exposure during your visit*:



If you've had direct exposure to a person who is COVID-19 positive, have a cough or fever, or other symptoms indicative of exposure, it is essential to let your doctor's office know ahead of time.



If you arrive at the appointment and are unwell, you may be asked to reschedule.

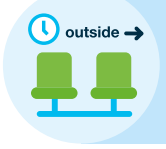


If you anticipate a cough or sneeze, kindly cover your face with your bent elbow or a tissue and dispose of any used tissues immediately. Wash your hands with soap and water or disinfectant immediately.

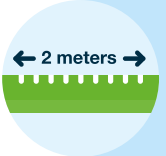
Ways you can reduce the risk of exposure during your visit*:



Please limit to one person accompanying you to your appointment.



The clinic may ask you, or the person accompanying you, to wait outside, to maintain social distancing.



While in the waiting room, maintain a distance of at least 1.5 to 2 meters (5-6 feet) between yourself and others.



You may, or may not, be given a mask to wear during the treatment.

*Please refer to your local government's guidance on social distancing measures.

If you are unable to attend your visit:

Your doctor's office will only ask patients for whom treatment is crucial to attend appointments and will take all measures to minimize risk. Risk cannot however be completely eliminated, and your doctor will understand if you choose to cancel a visit at any time.



Please contact the clinic as soon as able to cancel your appointment and schedule a replacement appointment.



In the lead up to your next appointment, regularly monitor your vision, such as with an Amsler Grid test.



If you do notice a change in your vision, please contact your doctor to assess if an emergency visit is needed.

For more information on ways to limit your exposure to COVID-19 and reduce your risk, please visit: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

The Vision Academy comprises an international group of more than 80 experts worldwide. Through their collective expertise, the Vision Academy seeks to provide guidance for best clinical practice in the management of retinal disease, particularly in areas with insufficient conclusive evidence. **The Vision Academy is supported by Bayer.**

