

HEALTH CARE BUSINESS GUIDELINES:

That, effective immediately, any person, service, or entity delivering healthcare during the effective dates of this Order **shall** adhere to the guidelines for [**Critical Infrastructure**](#) in addition to the guidelines listed in this Section.

Dental practices, and clinics that continue in-person operation during the effective dates of this Order **shall** adhere to the American Dental Association's Interim Guidance for Minimizing Risk of COVID-19 Transmission and Interim Mask and Face Shield Guidelines and that any previous Executive Order or rule which would prevent dental practices and clinics from providing the full scope of their services subject to the above requirements is hereby suspended.

Licensed optometrists and their staff that continue in-person operation during the effective dates of this Order **shall** adhere to the American Optometric Association's Practice Reactivation Preparedness Guide and the Georgia Optometric Association's COVID-19 guidelines for practices issued March 17, 2020 and updated April 20, 2020. Any previous executive order or departmental rule which would prevent optometrists from providing the full scope of their services subject to the above requirements is hereby suspended.

Licensed opticians and their staff that continue in-person operation during the effective dates of this Order **shall** adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Recommendations for Office Disinfection and Recommendations for Employers. Any previous executive order or departmental rule which would prevent opticians from providing the full scope of their services subject to the above requirements is hereby suspended.

Ambulatory Surgical Centers that continue in-person operation during the effective dates of this Order **shall**, [**in addition to compliance with the guidelines for Critical Infrastructure**](#), implement additional measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as practicable. Such measures **may** include, but shall not be limited to the following, which shall be implemented to the maximum extent practicable:

1. Screening patients before visits and monitoring their health prior to starting surgery as part of the pre-operative procedure;
2. Requiring staff to self-monitor and screen for viral symptoms daily;
3. Continuing to use Personal Protective Equipment per the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for all procedures;
4. Following waiting room spacing guidelines, Social Distancing, face masking, and other recommended procedures for patients and visitors prior to entering the facility;
5. Ensuring heightened disinfection to prevent and mitigate risk of spread;
6. Ensuring patients have been medically cleared by their primary care physician where applicable;
7. Balancing the needs of patient care with the risk of providing that care by prioritizing procedures for patients who have lower co-morbidities and surgical risks and procedures accompanied by lower risk with regard to airborne transmission and those with minimal risk of unintended hospital admissions;

8. Performing regular rapid COVID-19 testing on providers and employees where feasible; and
9. Performing COVID-19 testing on patients suspected to be experiencing COVID-19 and factoring the results of such testing into clinical decisions as to whether or not to proceed with procedures.

Any previous executive order or departmental rule which would prevent ambulatory surgical centers from providing the full scope of their services subject to the above requirements is hereby suspended.

That to the extent possible, hospitals, healthcare institutions, medical facilities, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities should offer in-room dining.