

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- COVID-19
- TELEHEALTH
- REMINDERS
- RULE REVIEWS
- CALENDAR
- MISSION
- BOARD MEMBERS
- CONTACT INFO
- BOARD STAFF

COVID-19

The pandemic has been overwhelming and we **THANK YOU** very much for your patience and understanding, as we work through these unprecedented times together. The website of CoronaVirus.Ohio.gov has the latest information about responsible protocols for getting back to work and specific operating requirements for businesses to reopen. The "Responsible RestartOhio" plan is about protecting the health of employees, customers, and their families; supporting community efforts to control the spread of the virus; and leading in responsibly getting Ohio back to work. As always, Vision.Ohio.gov has helpful guidance to assist you too.

Telehealth Communications Rule

Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2020-15D on April 20, 2020. The order is an emergency adoption of the Vision Professionals Board's (VPB) Telehealth Communications, 4725-25-01, administrative rule between Therapeutic Optometrists and their patients for 120 days. **Refractions are not included in the rule.** Remember, the nature, protocols, and standard of patient care of telehealth services are exactly the SAME as if the services were provided in person by the provider. The rule will be considered by the board members for its continuance beyond the 120 days at a future board meeting.

REMINDERS:

Optometrists: At a special board meeting on April 16th, board members unanimously approved that all twenty-five (25) continuing education hours for the year 2020, ending September 30th, may be taken online.

Apprentice Opticians: The implementation of the automation of apprentice registration cards began in April. Once you initiate and / or renew a paid registration, your personalized **REGISTRATION CARD** will be **emailed** directly to you as a pdf attachment. Therefore, you can print your registration card and display with your **SUPERVISOR'S CERTIFICATE**. No separate registration card will be mailed to you.

RULE REVIEWS

The rules committee is reviewing the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), which are enforceable rules that further explain the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), relating to all VPB rules affecting the Scope of Practice. The rules regulate the professions. Additional emails will be sent to all stakeholders after our May committee meeting for your input on the Scope of Practice, Telehealth and Sexual Misconduct rules. View all the current rules in the OAC with the link Codes.Ohio.gov/oac/search/4725.

2020 Calendar

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|----------------|---|
| May 21 | Board meeting, 9:30 a.m. via conference call, details on website |
| May 25 | Memorial Day— <i>board office closed</i> |
| June 30 | Last day: OPTICIAN 2020 renewal before mandatory retest |
| July 3 | Independence Day— <i>board office closed</i> |
| July 30 | Last day: OPTOMETRIST 2020 renewal before reinstatement |
| August 13 | Board meeting, 9:30 a.m., 77 S. High Street, 19th floor, Columbus |

MISSION: The mission of the Vision Professionals Board is to protect and serve the public of Ohio by effectively and efficiently regulating the practices of Optometry, Opticianry, and Ocularistry in Ohio. We strive to be a national leader for the establishment of professional practice standards and licensure of Optometrists, Opticians, and Ocularists.

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Thomas Nye, O.D., *President*
 Dr. Jacqueline Davis, O.D., *Secretary*
 Dr. Cheryl Archer, O.D.
 Thomas Barracato
 Dr. Darrell Dye, O.D.
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