

Information Update from LOC chair

Here is an update from the Herts LOC chair with some useful links, further information, helpful hints and communication for practitioners:

- Here's the link to a forum about Covid-19 run by Optix but it's for all practitioners: Many comments and suggestions but all useful: <http://optixforum.uk>
- You can log in to this - webinar this evening for all from 9pm: www.strongertogetheroptics.co.uk
- PPE is an area that is being looked into.
- Zeiss are offering free slitlamp breath shields: <https://www.zeiss.com/meditec/int/c/slit-lamp-breath-shields.html>
- Letter for landlords from Hakim group and can be rewritten for your own use: <https://www.strongertogetheroptics.co.uk/rc-landlords>

PRACTICE CLOSURE NOTIFICATIONS PLEASE:

- I have been advised by Rupal Lovell-Patel who is Chair of the East Anglia Local Eye Health Network and Optometry Professional Adviser that If you are closing your practice, please let the contracts team know: england.optometryeast@nhs.net
- Following a recent communication from LOCSU, please can we request that contractors let us, the LOC, know about any closures or adaption of hours, together with your contact details which may be a personal email or contact if you are going to be out of practice. It may be that you are closing but wanting to get involved in emergency care should a national solution come about. With this in mind, we will collate a list of locums who are willing and able to work across practices during the COVID crisis in response to changes in workforce.
- If any contractor is closing, partially closing or adapting their hours, they need to contact their local NHS England office to let them know the new arrangement. Details to include:
 - Contractor name (include name of directors if corporate body)
 - Practice name and full address ODS code (this can be found on the ODS portal <https://odsportal.hscic.gov.uk/Organisation/Search>)
 - Effective date of closure or change in opening hours

Please see the attached document for details of all NHS England offices and contact details.

There is further information and advice available on our website at <https://www.loc-net.org.uk/hertfordshire/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Kind regards
Hertfordshire LOC