INSTRUMENT-BASED VISION SCREENING

REOPENING GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

Just like you, we're thinking about how we can offer the best care to students as schools reopen this fall. There's a lot to think about when it comes to the health and wellness of a child. It's likely that many students have missed appointments to get their eyes screened for potentially vision-threatening conditions.

We understand you may have concerns about how to safely conduct vision screenings to ensure you are protecting your students and staff from the transmission of COVID-19. We're here to help with information on how to safely perform instrument-based vision screening with the Welch Allyn® Spot® Vision Screener. With your help, we have screened millions of children for vision-threatening conditions. Together, we have the power to safeguard children's vision and ensure they get off to a healthy start.

What does the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommend?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has issued guidance that underscores the importance of continuing pediatric preventative care during the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with the Bright Futures/AAP Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care. This includes performing in-person annual vision screening, as permitted.[1] Regular vision screening is essential in detecting conditions that may lead to vision impairment.

What precautions are recommended during vision screenings to reduce transmission of COVID-19?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) generally promotes regular handwashing, covering of the mouth and nose, avoiding close contact with others and proper cleaning and disinfection.[2] Studies have shown that one of the most common forms of infectious disease transmission is through hand hygiene non-compliance. Close contact near mucus membranes, such as the eyes, may increase the risk of disease transmission. A recent systemic review found that transmission of viruses was lower with a physical distance of three feet or more, as compared to physical distances less than three feet.[3]

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How does the Spot® Vision Screener create a safe vision screening environment?

During school health screenings, it is important to facilitate fast procedures in order to reduce the amount of face-to-face time spent with children. The Spot Vision Screener features:

- Non-contact, easy-to-use photo screener that accurately identifies amblyopia risk factors and refractive error[4-8]
- Image capture on children ages six months and older, non-verbal students and students with disabilities who may have difficulty completing an eye chart[8-10]
- Measurements taken in seconds[4] with minimal cooperation needed, minimizing time spent screening each child
- Binocular evaluation of refractive errors from a non-invasive distance of three feet[4]

Can non-contact vision screening decrease exposure of COVID-19?

The Spot Vision Screener performs a quick, accurate vision screening that does not require the device or operator to touch the child. Minimizing points of contact during testing may decrease exposure and expedite the number of children evaluated between low-level disinfection of the device.

What are the recommendations for cleaning and disinfection of the Spot Vision Screener?

It is important to follow guidelines for cleaning and disinfection as outlined by your facility's protocols and standards or local regulations. Follow the recommendations in the device manual for maintenance and cleaning (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time).

The Spot Vision Screener is compatible with the following cleaning agents:

- 70% isopropyl alcohol
- 10% chlorine bleach solution

[1] AAP COVID-19 updates

[2] CDC guidance "Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings: Responding to Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States"

[3] Chu D, Akl E, Duda S et al. Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. The Lancet. 2020. doi:10.1016/s0140-6736(20)31142-9

[4] https://www.welchallyn.com/content/dam/welchallyn/documents/sap-documents/MRC/80021/80021031MRCPDF.pdf

[5] Peterseim MMW, Papa CE, Wilson EM, et al. The effectiveness of the Spot Vision Screener in detecting amblyopia risk factors. J AAPOS. 2014 Dec; 18⑥: 539-42.

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[8] Panda L, Barik U, Nayak S, et al. Performance of photoscreener in detection of refractive error in all age groups and amblyopia risk factors in children in a trial district in Odisha: The Tribal Odisha Eye Disease Study (TOES) # 3. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2018 Jun 4; 7③: 12.

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