

July 2, 2020

Dear Vision Screening Advocates,

The infection risk associated with COVID-19 has influenced those working in community, school and healthcare settings alike to take measures to limit close interaction between individuals. Health screening interactions such as vision screening should be performed while protecting the health and safety of all individuals and, while there are not yet guidelines specific for vision screening, the general principles of infection prevention are important to understand.

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.

Precautions for reducing the transmission of COVID-19 should be followed in each appropriate test setting. 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

The Welch Allyn® Spot® Vision Screener features:

- Non-contact, easy-to-use photo screener that accurately identifies amblyopia risk factors and refractive error⁴⁻⁸
- Captures images on children ages six months and older, adults with pupils as small as 3mm, non-verbal patients and patients with disabilities who may have difficulty completing an eye chart⁸⁻¹⁰
- Measurements taken in seconds⁴ with minimal cooperation needed, minimizing time spent screening each patient
- Binocular evaluation of refractive errors from a non-invasive distance of three feet⁴

During school health screenings and well-child visits, it is important to facilitate fast procedures in order to reduce the amount of face-to-face time spent with patients. The Spot Vision Screener performs a quick, accurate vision screening that does not require the device operator to touch the patient or the device to touch the patient. Minimizing points of contact during testing may decrease exposure and expedite the number of patients evaluated between low level disinfection of the device. The reduction of wet time or drying time in the disinfection process may also result in an increased turnaround time between patients.

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

For more information on cleaning and disinfecting, see the [CDC guidance "Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility."](#) Vision screening can be accomplished accurately and safely from a non-invasive distance with the Spot Vision Screener. Please reach out to your Hillrom representative if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Urrea, MD, MPH
Vice President Medical Affairs & Informatics



Hillrom™

¹AAP COVID-19 updates

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

³Chu 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>

⁵Peterseim MMW, Papa CE, Wilson EM, et al. The effectiveness of the Spot Vision Screener in detecting amblyopia risk factors. *J AAPOS*. 2014 Dec; 18(6): 539-42.

⁶Mu Y, Bi H, Ekure E, et al. Performance of Spot Photoscreener in detecting amblyopia risk factors in Chinese pre-school and school age children attending an eye clinic. *PLoS One*. 2016 Feb; 11(2): 1-1.

⁷Qian X, Li Y, Ding G, et al. Compared performance of Spot and SW800 photoscreeners on Chinese children. *Br J Ophthalmol*. 2018 Jul 9.

⁸Panda 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 tribal district in Odisha: The Tribal Odisha Eye Disease Study (TOES) # 3. *Transl Vis Sci Technol*. 2018 Jun 4; 7(3): 12.

⁹Forcina BD, Peterseim MM, Wilson ME, et al. Performance of the Spot Vision Screener in children younger than 3 years of age. *Am J Ophthalmol*. 2017 Jun; 178:79-83.

¹⁰Marzolf AL, Peterseim MM, Forcina BD, Papa C, Wilson ME, Cheeseman EW, Trivedi RH, Use of the Spot Vision Screener for patients with developmental disability. *J AAPOS*. 2017 Apr; doi: 10.1016/j.jaapos.2017.04.008.