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Each of us has a responsibility to take steps to impact the greater good in times of crisis. In recent weeks, we've all received guidance on social distancing, learned about "essential" businesses, and felt concerned for our strained health care system as it responds to the COVID-19 virus.

At VSP[®] Vision Care, we're committed to doing our part to "flatten the curve" and protect the health and safety of our members. That's why, through the month of April, VSP has expanded access to medical eye care services* for most VSP members and their covered dependents. It is effective today, through April 30, 2020 for members who do not already have this benefit.

By doing so, these members now have access to supplemental medical eye care for the detection, treatment, and management of ocular and visual conditions, including conjunctivitis, eye trauma, or sudden changes in vision. They can see their VSP network doctor in-person or remotely. Members can also use their routine VSP coverage for lost or broken glasses or replacement contact lenses to meet immediate eyewear needs by contacting their VSP network doctor.

Access to optometrists during this pandemic allows our members to maintain health and visual acuity while easing the burden on primary care physicians and emergency rooms. Visiting the ER may increase exposure to disease, as well as take services away from critically ill patients.

For members whose plan already covers essential medical eye care services, there is no change, and they can continue receiving these services from their VSP network doctor.

VSP network doctors do so much more than help with vision correction. They diagnose and treat conditions including conjunctivitis, eye trauma, and sudden changes in vision.

We understand the connection between eye care and overall health, and this expanded access will allow our members to turn to their VSP network doctor for essential medical eye care services when they need it most.

This extended access to care is ready to use for VSP Members:

- For the month of April, if a member is experiencing a medical eye care condition, they should contact their VSP network doctor.**
- There's no change to premiums and no paperwork to complete.

- A standard \$20 copay may apply for some essential medical eye care.
- Members receive treatment in a setting that is safe and comfortable including remote care when appropriate.
- Share this [flier](#) with your employees so they can learn about this extended benefit and connect with their VSP doctor if they need this level of care.

Your well-being is at the heart of everything we do, and it's at times like these that we appreciate being able to do something for the greater good. Together with our VSP network doctors, we wish you and your employees a lifetime of good health.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

VSP Vision Care Team

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*Essential medical eye care includes, but is not limited to, these conditions: conjunctivitis, eye trauma, and sudden changes in vision.

**Nothing contained herein alters any existing coverage. No insurance premium is charged or collected for this April 2020 service expansion. Essential medical eye care services billed to VSP are supplemental to medical insurance. The member's health insurance carrier should be billed as the primary payer when other coverage exists and the doctor participates on the health plan's network.

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