



**Notice: RE: COVID-19 & the 2020 COS Annual Meeting and Exhibition
March 13, 2020**

The Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) recognizes that this is a difficult and stressful time and we are actively monitoring the situation with the COVID-19 virus and its potential impact on the 2020 COS Annual Meeting & Exhibition, scheduled for June 25-28, 2020 in Vancouver, BC.

At this time, the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the current risk in Canada as low and we are therefore proceeding with plans for the 2020 COS Annual Meeting and Exhibition as usual. However, we are monitoring the situation closely and will provide regular updates as the situation evolves.

We are also exploring alternative options if the situation worsens and are informing our decisions with recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the World Health Organization. Our planning priorities include:

- The safety of our participants and staff;
- Regular communication with all stakeholders; and
- Ensuring best hygiene practices are readily available and easy to use throughout the meeting

For current additional information, please visit:

- Public Health Agency of Canada (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html#a1>)
- World Health Organization (WHO) <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

In the interim, we are continuing to work diligently towards creating the wonderful educational event that our participants have become accustomed to, and very much hope to see you all in Vancouver in June.

Sincerely,

Dr Mona Dagher
Chair
Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Dr Yvonne Buys
President
Canadian Ophthalmological Society