



29 April 2009

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The College of Optometrists has recently published updated infection control guidance (including new advice on airborne diseases) on the public area of its website. This is available at

http://www.college-optometrists.org/index.aspx/pcms/site.publication.other_guidance/

The ABDO guidance is similar and can be accessed at

<http://www.abdo.org.uk/adviceandguidelines.php>

Should the Health Protection Agency or government issue additional guidance to the professions we will of course alert you to this immediately.

In the meantime common sense and good practice should apply. Practices should

- be scrupulous about hygiene – in line with the College and ABDO guidelines
- take reasonable steps to prevent cross-infection (e.g. hand washing, ensuring coughs and sneezes are into tissues and disposed of, offering tissues to patients who are sneezing)
- ensure that any staff who have recently been to Mexico and who begin to experience flu-like symptoms within seven days of return contact urgently NHS Direct (0845 4647) or visit a GP.