

JANUARY 2020

COVID-19 Safety in VisionSpring's Clear Vision Workplace Programs

Guidelines & Toolkit

In December 2020, VisionSpring piloted its COVID-19 protocols in a factory in India to ensure its new COVID-19 Safety toolkit could be used effectively. This brief addendum to the COVID-19 Safe Vision Outreach Protocols provides guidance to VisionSpring teams and peer organizations interested in replicating this approach. The two documents should be read in tandem.

What's new in Clear Vision Workplace?

VisionSpring's Clear Vision Workplace program is designed to increase the coverage of vision screening and eyeglass wearing for working-age adults in India, Bangladesh and Vietnam. Teams work with brands, national factory associations and individual factory management teams to integrate into the workplace regular vision screening and increase workers' access to high quality, affordable eyeglasses.

VisionSpring developed and piloted its COVID-19 safety toolkit in community outreach programs in late 2020. Factories provide a different context, given the large number of employees that work inside and in close proximity with one another throughout the workday. To make sure its toolkit was fit for this context, the VisionSpring team decided to pilot or "demo" the new protocols in order to identify add any missing tools or requirements to help assure the safety of customers and colleagues.

Traditional VisionSpring outreach program

The traditional VisionSpring factory program includes 3 stations for small factories, 4 for larger ones. As is the case with all VisionSpring outreach programs now, the new CVW program has expanded to include five distinct stations.

Registration ----> Pre-screening ----> Technical -----> Counseling & Screening Dispensing

First, customer examination sheet is filled requiring workers personal information, eye check up and prescription details. Second, pre-screening is conducted to identify workers with an eyerelated problem and require optometric support.

Third, optometrist conducts a thorough check for refractive error and other eye diseases for workers and notes prescription.

Finally, workers requiring eyeglasses are counseled on eyeglasses care and they select the eyeglasses of their choice.

Amended VisionSpring outreach program with COVID-19 protocols



Tips & Tricks

The pilot generated tips about how best to implement the COVID protocols in factories.

- Conduct adequate pre-planning meetings with factory management to learn about the factory's existing safety practices and to find out if volunteers can be made available to help with crowd management.
- 2. Explore with factory management if it's possible to conduct the screening program outdoors. If not, work with factory management during the planning meeting to to identify a well ventilated area with enough space for the social distancing circles required in VisionSpring's COVID-19 protocols. If there is not enough space for eye screening with social distancing, turn down the request for screening until a space can be made available.
- 3. Use the factory's existing safety guidelines to plan for mask distribution and to decide whether to bring the handwashing station.
- 4. Make sure to bring a supply of high quality masks even if the factory management requires mask wearing. This way, VisionSpring can distribute masks if customers show up with informal coverings or other substitutes
- 5. Work with the factory's medical staff to assure that VisionSpring's reference information is consistent with the factory's existing guidance for workers whose screening identifies any COVID-19 symptoms.
- 6. Identify volunteers from factory human resources and/or administration to help coordinate with floor supervisors to send people to the program in batches of 5.

