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October 21, 2020

**EXTENDED POLICY ON ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

At its March 25, 2020 meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry (“Board”) voted to waive the 6 hour limitation on the number of distance-based continuing education (“CE”) courses a licensee may count towards their 2020 calendar year requirement, due to the shift of many previously approved CE courses from an in-person classroom format to a distance-based format resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus for CE completed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, an optometrist may receive credit for up to 18 hours of distance-based CE courses completed that are Board-approved and meet all other regulatory requirements.

At its October 21, 2020 meeting, the Board voted to extend the waiver of the six-hour limit through calendar year 2021, so that distance-based CE completed during 2021 will be credited for up to 18 hours of CE, provided that each course completed is Board-approved and meets all other regulatory requirements.

As a reminder, the Board has approved courses that are: (a) approved by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (C.O.P.E), (b) specifically approved by the Board, or (c) are offered by a Continuing Education Entity. The Board will continue to accept live courses that meet all regulatory requirements. Board regulations may be accessed through the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/statutes-and-regulationsoptometry#rules-and-regulations-governing-optometrists>

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