SUNY OPTOMETRY COVID-19 COMMUNITY SAFETY STUDENT POLICY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All members of the State University of New York, College of Optometry (College) have an important role to play in ensuring our College remains vibrant and safe as a learning, teaching, and working environment. The risks posed by SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, require that each of us actively practice heightened health and safety precautions throughout the coming academic year.

As a student at the College and future health care provider, you should take steps and precautions to stay well in order to protect yourself and others and promote a safe return to campus. You need to take responsibility for your own health and do your part to help stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

We all recognize that the College’s highest priority is the safety of its students, faculty, staff, patients and visitors. Despite all reasonable safety precautions implemented by the College, if you engage in unsafe activities, whether on- or off-campus, you may be exposing yourself and others to SARS-CoV-2.

In order to reduce the risk of infection with the virus, we expect all members of the College community to be active participants in maintaining their own health, well-being, and safety, as well as the safety of others, by following all the guidelines and expectations outlined by the College, state and federal health agencies, the CDC, and the Governor of the State of New York.

As more information is gathered and becomes known, you should understand that the College and these agencies may modify their guidelines and expectations. It is your responsibility to make every effort to keep apprised of these changes to protect yourself and the College community.

To protect yourself, your peers, and the College community, you should do the following:

- Monitor for the following symptoms:
  - A fever of 100°F or higher
  - Respiratory symptoms, such as dry cough or shortness of breath
  - Sore throat
  - Headache without a clear reason
  - Unexplained body aches, muscle aches or fatigue
  - Chills
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Unexplained nausea or vomiting
  - Gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea
  - Other symptoms that may be identified as linked to COVID-19 illness

- Stay at home if you ever feel sick.
• Report immediately any known or potential exposures to the coronavirus to Vito Cavallaro in Student Affairs.

• If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, contact Vito Cavallaro and follow his or his staff’s instructions, which may include being tested for SARS-CoV-2, self-quarantining while the test results are pending, and obtaining medical advice.

• You may need to test for SARS-CoV-2 and self-quarantine if required because of travel within states on the Governor’s Travel Advisory, or if you are identified as a contact of anyone who has been determined to be positive for SARS-CoV-2.

• Results of any SARS-CoV-2 test must be reported to Vito Cavallaro in order to facilitate the Contact Tracing Programs of the College and of the NYS Department of Health (DOH). You are expected to fully participate in the Contact Tracing process with the understanding that neither the College nor DOH will release your name to anyone in the contact tracing process, and that your personal health information will be treated as strictly confidential.

• If you test positive for SARS-CoV-2, you are expected to self-quarantine in a designated location until:
  o You are free of fever for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications,
  o it has been at least ten days since the start of symptoms, and
  o other symptoms are improving.

• We recommend that all members of the College community get a flu vaccination, as symptoms of COVID-19 may closely resemble flu symptoms.

• You must comply with the College’s policy regarding Executive Order 205 – Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York Following Out of State Travel – and notify Vito Cavallaro if you travel to or from a Designated State for more than 24 hours.

• We expect all members of the College community to participate fully and honestly with College staff as they respond to COVID-19-related issues on campus.

• All College personnel, patients, and visitors are required to wear a face covering in all public spaces, and you have been provided by the College with face masks and will be provided with appropriate PPE for patient care and other clinical or research activities.

• We strongly recommend that you avoid large gatherings and practice physical distancing both inside and outside of the College as much as possible.

• You should frequently wash and/or sanitize your hands.

• You must use disinfecting wipes provided by the College or use your own to clean lab and study spaces before AND after use.

• You are expected to keep your personal space, shared common space, and your belongings clean and sanitized.
SARS-CoV-2 is a highly contagious virus and it is possible to develop COVID-19 even if you follow all of the safety precautions above and those recommended by the CDC, local health department, and others. You should understand that although the College is following the coronavirus guidelines issued by the CDC and other experts to reduce the spread of infection, you can never be completely shielded from all risk of illness caused by coronavirus or other infections.

As a future health care professional, we expect that you will take this acknowledgement seriously and pledge to do your part to help stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2 at the College and in the community.

You recognize that the guidelines contained in this SUNY Optometry COVID-19 Student Acknowledgement are crucial to helping us combat COVID-19 and keep the College community as safe as possible during this public health crisis.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and pledge to abide by the safety protocols set forth in this policy.

________________________________________  ______________________
[STUDENT SIGNATURE]                     [DATE]