

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS COVID-19 AND EYE & EAR HEALTH

Question	Answers
<p>What can be done in eye and ear health emergencies during COVID-19?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of response to CoVID-19, there is scale back of routine health service provision in most health facilities. • In case of critical eye or ear health emergency conditions such as sudden onset red eye or worsening ear condition, injury to eye or ears, sudden decrease in vision or hearing, severe pain in the eyes or ears and foreign body entry in eyes or ears; call the health care provider for consultation or for assessment.
<p>Are people with pre-existing eye or ear problems more likely to have COVID-19?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with eye and ear problems are not more likely to have COVID-19 than the general population. Some NCDs such as diabetes, can have eye conditions as a manifestation of poor control. Those with pre-existing co-morbidities such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems, chronic respiratory disease etc. are likely to have worse outcomes if they contract the virus. • Many eye and ear health conditions are age related and occur in older age group. This age group have an increased likelihood of severe disease if they get COVID-19.
<p>How can one prevent getting COVID-19 in an eye or ear health emergency?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the health care provider via the phone for the condition to be assessed and be certain of the need to go to the health facility. • Ensure adherence to social distancing of 1 meter. • Consider using non-medical mask based on your risk assessment. • Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if available. Always avoid touching your face.
<p>How effective is remote consultation for eye and ear problems to avoid visiting health facilities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is effective to rule out emergency eye or ear condition through remote consultations. • It is effective to get advice regarding continuation of treatment for eye and ear conditions and follow up. • It is effective to get an updated knowledge on COVID-19 and eye and ear problems.