



VisionSpring

See well. Do well.



JANUARY 2020

COVID-19 Safety in VisionSpring's School Programs

Guidelines & Toolkit

In December 2020, VisionSpring piloted its COVID-19 protocols in a school in India in order to ensure its new COVID-19 Safety toolkit could be used effectively to conduct vision programs with students. 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 See to Learn?

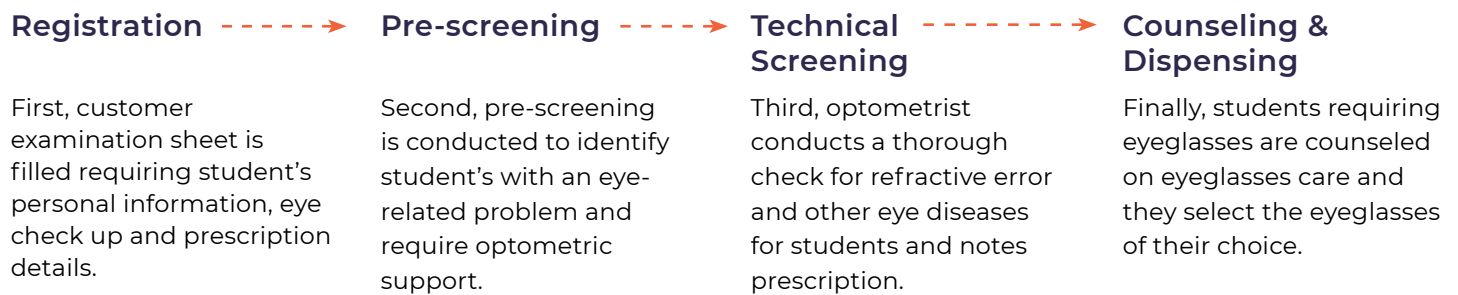
VisionSpring's See to Learn program is designed to increase the coverage of vision screening and uptake of eyeglasses wearing among students in India. Teams work with school administrators to organize outreach programs inside the school building, where students are pre-screened by VisionSpring staff, screened for refractive error by VisionSpring optometrists and provided glasses within 30 days of the program. The traditional screening process is represented below.

With the closing of many schools and use of on-line learning, the spread of COVID-19 impacted VisionSpring's ability to reach students with these important services. In partnership with school authorities and local districts, the VisionSpring team conducted a pilot program to learn whether COVID-safety practices developed for adults would need to be altered for the school setting.

VisionSpring altered the See to Learn procedure to reflect the five station structure of the new COVID protocol. The difference between the traditional and new school screening steps are presented below.

Traditional VisionSpring outreach program

VisionSpring traditionally organizes awareness activities, pre-screens 300 students per day, conducts technical screening and dispenses eyeglasses to students who require them.



Amended VisionSpring outreach program with COVID-19 protocols

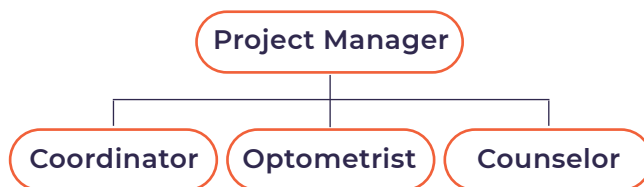


Tips & Tricks

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

1. Use school volunteers to man the registration desk and remind the students to maintain social distancing while they wait in line.
2. Shorten the health screening to include only temperature taking in coordination with school's own symptomatic screening process.
3. Let in children in batches of 5 at program entry point within social distancing marked circles.
4. Use tape on the floor instead of white chalk to draw social distancing circles so they stay for the duration of the program.
5. Use arrows and markings to ensure students follow the unidirectional flow of the set-up to avoid crowding.
6. Update program collateral to be engaging and understandable for students.
7. Increase the staffing to reflect the additional school volunteer and an individual staff member who can conduct the pre-screening and man the handwashing station.

Traditional VisionSpring outreach program team structure



Amended VisionSpring outreach program team structure

