

January 16, 2023

Dear Childcare Operator:

**RE: Vision health promotion for children in the VCH region**

We are writing in our roles as Medical Health Officers with Vancouver Coastal Health to encourage early access to vision care for all children. We are committed to ensuring that all children develop optimally in early childhood and enter school ready to learn. This can be helped through early identification of vision conditions by an optometrist. If identified early, many vision conditions can be corrected and others prevented.

**We appreciate your support in sharing the following key messages with the families that you serve:**

- Good vision is important for children's learning and development.
- When vision problems are found early, it is often possible to correct them or prevent them from getting worse.
- All children should see an optometrist before kindergarten, ideally by age 3, to start school ready to learn.
  - Find an optometrist in your area through the [Find a Doctor of Optometry - BC Doctors of Optometry](#) platform
- B.C. Medical Services Plan covers vision check-ups once a year for children under age 19.
  - Some eye clinics have charges associated with children's eye exams.
  - It is a good idea for families to call eye clinics before scheduling an appointment to ask about costs and other services such as languages spoken.

On the following page, please find a [printable poster](#) with these key messages. Please share it with the families that you serve by posting copies in prominent places such as entry ways and public washrooms and/or including the poster in your regular electronic newsletters.

Please see our webpage [Vision services for children - Vancouver Coastal Health \(vch.ca\)](#) for additional information about vision health care for children.

We appreciate your support in promoting optimal early childhood vision.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, MD, MPH, FRCPC**  
Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver  
Vancouver Coastal Health



**Dr. Meena Dawar, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC**  
Medical Health Officer, Richmond  
Vancouver Coastal Health



**Dr. Alex Choi**, MD, MHS, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer, North Shore  
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**Dr. Moliehi Khaketla**, MBChB, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer, Coastal Rural  
Vancouver Coastal Health

# Vision Services for Children

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## Find an optometrist in your area:

BC Doctors of Optometry  
[bc.doctorsofoptometry.ca/find-a-doctor](https://bc.doctorsofoptometry.ca/find-a-doctor)  
or scan here:

