



As we publish today, we have yet to reach post-COVID, or the new normal as it is often called. With elective surgeries delayed in most areas of the United States, and indeed across the globe, eye banks have restricted corneal retrieval due to the decrease demand coupled with the concern for viral spread.

Could corneas be a source of transmission, especially if a donor was in the non-symptomatic stage? Were the technicians at risk travelling to hospitals to recover tissue? Are new screening policies, and even new testing regimens, necessary requirements? Will the potential, albeit perhaps short lived, loss of revenue have long-term impact on some eye banks' ability to fulfill their mission? These and other challenges face eye banks today as surgeries begin to rebound.

How will we safely meet the needs of patients and physicians, protect our staff, and return to the education and awareness necessary to keep donation established as in the past? Some of these questions are being answered by ordering additional protective apparel and making surgeons aware that tissue availability may be impacted by additional screening and testing, particularly until more is known about testing accuracy.

National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control have stated that viral spread and other risk factors are associated with close contact with droplets from sneezing and coughing, not from surfaces like counters and doors. Protective apparel and frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizers should minimize our very real and justified concerns.

It is obvious there are many questions. Questions which have been answered and those which will be addressed by eye banks in similar and different ways. Today, we examine the problem; tomorrow, we will find the solutions. Together we will persevere, as we always have, to provide the highest quality, safest tissue for transplantation. Let us also share our solutions and our continuing concerns through this Journal and other publications, so our fellow eye bank professionals can learn from, take comfort in, and use to the betterment of eye banking. There is a continuing need for eye banking services and eye bankers will respond.

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