



GEORGIA EYE BANK, INC.

March 18, 2020

For those of you who follow Georgia Eye Bank, please know that our organization has implemented special operations as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are closely monitoring information released from the CDC, the Georgia Department of Public Health, the FDA, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Georgia Eye Bank is also receiving regular updates from the Eye Bank Association of America.

We are committed to the health and safety of our wonderful employees and Recovery Technicians. Most staff are working from home and the critical staff needed at our offices and laboratory, have significantly modified schedules and job functions. We have taken steps to help minimize the spread of this virus in our community.

If you are a recent recipient of a cornea transplant and are concerned, please contact your ophthalmologist. While there have been no reported cases of transmission of COVID-19 via cornea transplant, I certainly can understand any worry or concern. Please trust that Georgia Eye Bank takes the health and vision of our recipients extremely seriously. We have robust policies and procedures to ensure we meet or exceed all the regulations and medical standards. Screening potential donors for systemic/infectious disease is something we do all the time. Our dedicated team members are very well-trained and always focused on quality and safety.

If a surgeon and patient wish to proceed with a cornea transplant, Georgia Eye Bank will continue to meet that need and will provide tissue. This virus will not stop us or our mission of providing the *Gift of Sight*.

At this time of world crisis, please keep yourself informed but also take breaks from the constant COVID-19 news. I know there is a lot of stress, anxiety and fear. Let's not forget our mental health during these difficult times. Healthy behaviors (eating nutritious foods, drinking water, and sleeping) can only make our bodies and minds stronger. Please practice social distancing and wash your hands. GEB management is meeting regularly to discuss operations and our Board of Trustees has been extremely supportive as well.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly (eric@georgiaeyebank.org) and I'll respond as quickly as possible. Please share this message with anyone you think would benefit.

Eric Meinecke, CEBT
President & Chief Executive Officer
Georgia Eye Bank