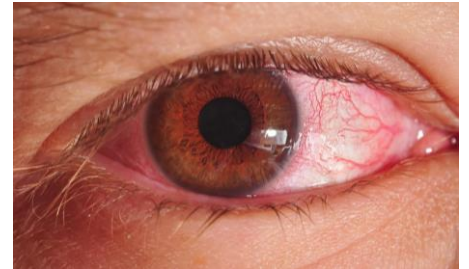


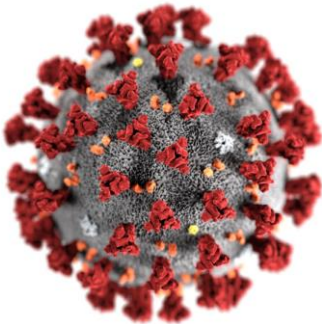
Central Mersey Local Optical Committee

No NHS funding for urgent Eye care in Knowsley

NHS bodies in Halton, St Helens & Warrington are funding a **COVID Urgent Eye Care Service (CUES)** at high street Opticians. This NHS service provides free appointments for patients with urgent eye problems, enabling them to be seen quickly by suitably trained Optometrists, and in many cases avoiding a visit to Hospital.



Suitable conditions include red, sore, or watery eyes, foreign bodies, in-growing eyelashes, and sudden visual disturbances such as flashes, floaters, blurring or distortion. Most cases are managed by the Optometrist, but when required collaboration with the local hospital means rapid access to specialist treatment.



Unfortunately, NHS commissioners in **Knowsley** have declined to join the Central Mersey Programme. So, people with a Knowsley GP are not covered under the NHS for this urgent care service, so your Optician can only offer a private appointment.

The only available NHS options are:

- **A&E**
- **Your GP**
- **Pharmacy**

*If you are unhappy that your post-code determines your access to eye care services you can register your objection with Knowsley Healthwatch:

EMAIL: knowsley-advocacy@together-uk.org

T: 0151 426 3174

M: 07484935748

www.healthwatchknowsley.co.uk/signposting-information/how-to-complain/