



CONSUMER HEALTH ALERT

The American Optometric Association (AOA) is issuing a new alert urging consumers to consult with their local AOA doctor of optometry before treating themselves with over-the-counter (OTC) eye drops due to risk of potential fungal and bacterial contamination that could result in vision loss or blindness. The alert comes after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recalled 26 eye drops from several major brands.

*As of Nov. 6, 2023, additional eye drops have been recalled.

For the list of products recalled and more information, visit the [FDA website](#).



What should I do if I used these eye drops?

Patients that have used these products or experience any new and/or prolonged irritation in their eyes should visit [AOA.org](#) to book an appointment with an AOA doctor of optometry.

Before consumers treat themselves with OTC eye drops, the AOA recommends consulting with their local AOA optometrist. Individuals who use eye drops can also check the FDA's website for an up-to-date list of products being recalled.

Regardless if an individual experiences obvious symptoms, anyone who has used these products should alert their doctor of optometry so they may assess the front surface of their eye for any problems during a comprehensive eye exam.



What are the symptoms of eye infections? When should I go to the optometrist?

Anytime you suspect something is wrong or if you feel there's a possibility of eye infection, you should always visit your doctor of optometry for a comprehensive eye exam. Attempting to self-diagnose can delay effective treatment and potentially cause permanent vision loss.

Common symptoms of eye infections include:

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| • Red eyes | • Watery eyes | • Swollen eyes | • Blurry vision |
| • Pain | • Dry eyes | • Swelling around the eyes | |
| • Eye discharge | • Light sensitivity | • Itching | |



What will my doctor of optometry do to help me?

Doctors of optometry will perform a comprehensive eye exam and based on each patient's signs and symptoms, along with the doctor's professional judgment, will determine what additional tests need to be conducted.



Are eye drops safe to use?

Eye drops are safe when manufactured and used properly. If you have questions about the use of eye drops, please contact your local AOA doctor of optometry.

When talking with a doctor of optometry, it's important to share any prescribed and over-the-counter medications currently in use and ask for their professional opinion. This can also help ensure that the correct treatment plan is in place.

The AOA works 24/7/365 to safeguard the quality care standards for eye, health and vision care and supports the doctor-patient relationship as the foundation for healthy outcomes. **To find an AOA doctor of optometry near you, visit the [AOA.org Doctor Locator](#).**