BE SCARY BUT SAFE WITH DECORATIVE CONTACT LENSES
THIS HALLOWEEN

The Colorado Optometric Association warns consumers of possible eye and vision problems resulting from the improper or illegal use of contact lenses

[Denver, Colorado. October 20, 2016] – Halloween is all about trick-or-treating for the kids, and for partygoers, finding a creative costume that ‘wows.’ Some may wear decorative contact lenses as part of their costume. However, if these lenses are bought illegally and without a prescription from your eye doctor, they could lead to serious health issues and potentially damage your eyesight permanently. The Colorado Optometric Association recommends talking to your doctor first and obtaining a prescription before incorporating decorative contact lenses as part of your costume.

“Changing your eye color or creating the effect of being a character like a zombie, vampire, or movie character is very popular for Halloween, but every year, consumers are harmed by lenses purchased from questionable sources,” said Dr. Sean Claffin, OD, president of the Colorado Optometric Association. “Many consumers consider these lenses a fashion or costume accessory when, in reality, decorative lenses are also classified as medical devices and still pose the same potential safety and health issues as corrective contact lenses, and require a prescription.”

To stay safe but be scary this Halloween, the Colorado Optometric Association offers five easy tips:

- See a doctor of optometry for an in-person, comprehensive eye examination and proper fitting and prescription for decorative contacts lenses, even if you don’t require lenses to correct your vision;
- Use cleaning solution to rub the lenses with fingers and rinse thoroughly before soaking lenses overnight;
- Store lenses in the proper lens storage case and replace your case every three months;
- Don’t share your lenses with friends or family members;
- No matter how tired you are, do not sleep in your contacts.

See your optometrist immediately if you experience redness, pain, irritation, or blurred vision while wearing your lenses.

For more information about contact lens hygiene and safety, as well as the risks associated with decorative contact lenses, please visit http://www.contactlenssafety.org/.

About the Colorado Optometric Association (COA):
The Colorado Optometric Association (COA) is the professional organization of optometrists in Colorado. Over 600 Colorado Doctors of Optometry are voluntary members of the Association. Since 1892, the COA has assisted its members in providing the highest standard of professional care to their patients by sponsoring continuing education programs for doctors, advocating in local and state governments for programs and laws that represent patients’ best interests, and providing information for the public. For more information, please visit www.visioncare.org or call 303-863-9778.

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