

NECO

Center for Eye Care
New England
College of Optometry



NECO Center for Eye Care Southeastern Massachusetts

450 Pleasant Street
East Bridgewater, MA
Office: 617-680-8447

We look forward to your visit!

Please carefully review the information in this Welcome Packet as it has been updated due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Considerations

- Mask wearing is no longer required for our patients, but we do kindly ask that caretakers, staff, and family members to please consider wearing a mask.
- Use of Hand Sanitizer and Washing of Hands must occur during your visit.
- Keeping Social Distance as is possible during your visit will be encouraged.
- Please prepare for the eye exam by watching and/or listening to the following two Social Stories found on our website:
 - What to Expect During Your Eye Exam:
Visiting NECO Center for Eye Care Southeastern Massachusetts Clinic During COVID-19
 - Wearing a Mask

focusonvisionandvisionloss.org/neco-sema.html

- If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please contact your PCP and call us to re-schedule your eye appointment:

Cough?

Shortness of breath?

Fever?

Chills?

Muscle pain?

Headache?

Sore throat?

New loss of taste or smell?

Please Send Us the Following Prior to the Appointment

- **Copies of your latest eye reports, current medication sheets, health records (including neuropsychology), available clinical reports** (including Orientation and Mobility, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, OT, PT, Speech, etc.)
- **Completed Form “Getting Ready for Your Eye Exam”**- This information helps us to learn about you, and your questions and concerns.
- **Copies of: Medical Insurance Card, Medical History, and Current Medications & Allergies Lists**
- **Completed Form “Authorization for Use and Release of Health Information”**

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Please Bring to the Appointment

- **All eyeglasses, sunglasses, protective eye wear, and low vision devices used**
These devices help us understand what has or has not been helpful to you in the past and assists if we need to recommend anything new.
- **One Member from Your Team** Having one member of your family, staff and/or caregiver attend the visit can help you to feel relaxed, comfortable, and ensures that we address everyone's questions.

Who Do We Serve?

The NECO Center for Eye Care Southeastern Massachusetts is a specialty vision clinic geared to meet the primary eye care needs of individuals with intellectual disability who are eligible for services through the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

What Do We Do?

At our office in East Bridgewater, eye examinations are provided to determine a person's eye health, to better understand how each person uses his or her vision, and to maximize visual function. Eye exams are scheduled for one hour, allowing time for the exam, and to make sure that all questions are answered.

Our examinations include evaluation of:

- Medical, Education and/or Rehabilitation History
- Eye Health – exterior and interior (may include dilating drops)
- Eye Pressure – important to evaluate for glaucoma
- Binocular Vision – to determine how the two eyes function together
- Vision Acuity – how clearly a person sees at near, far and intermediate distances
- Contrast Sensitivity – visual discrimination of color and brightness
- Visual Field – spatial awareness, central and peripheral, helpful for mobility

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What Do We Do? (continued)

During the visit, we may prescribe eyeglasses and/or vision aids; develop appropriate therapies and offer advice on rehabilitation or educational considerations. In addition, recommendations/referrals may be made to other specialists for in-depth testing of visual field, to ophthalmologists as needed and to opticians for the selection and fitting of eyeglasses. Before you leave, any needed paperwork will be filled out. A full eye report, including all recommendations will also be prepared and mailed to you at home.

Who Will Be There?

Upon arrival, patients and their caregivers will be greeted by our patient care coordinator. Because we are a teaching clinic for New England Eye, Dorothy Tolls, OD, and an optometry intern from the New England College of Optometry will work together to provide the eye exam.

About Dorothy Tolls, OD

Dr. Tolls is a local optometrist with Boston roots. After attaining an optometry doctorate in 1990 from NECO, she completed a residency at the Brockton/West Roxbury Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Tolls is currently an attending optometrist and Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor with NECO. Dr. Tolls also provides eye care in Central and Western Massachusetts. Dr. Tolls enjoys providing community-based care and is passionate about serving the needs of individuals experiencing disability, and vulnerable populations.

Our Collaboration

This clinic is a unique collaboration between New England College of Optometry (NECO), Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and Shriver Clinical Services. Our mission is to provide access to vision services geared to meeting the needs of adults and children with intellectually disability who reside in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our focus is to provide patient education and treatment options that help to improve the visual function and quality of life for each person we serve. We look forward to your visit!

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Insurance Information

- **Referrals:** MassHealth and Medicare do not require referrals for eye care appointments. If a referral is needed, we will contact you.
- **Co-Pays:** Any needed co-payments, per your insurance provider, will be billed to you after your appointment.

For More Information

Office: 617-680-8447

Fax: 857-241-3132

Email: SEMA@neco.edu

Website: focusonvisionandvisionloss.org/neco-sema.html

Hours of Operation

Tuesdays: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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Directions

GPS: 450 Pleasant Street
East Bridgewater, MA 02333



Route 24 (North or South): From Rte. 24 take Exit #16A, Route 106 East. Follow 106 East, passing the West Bridgewater Police Dept. on your left. Take Left onto Rte. 28/North Main St. Follow until Grand Slam Pizza and Pub (on the right). Turn Right onto Matfield St. After going over Railroad Tracks/Crossing, bear left at fork onto Belmont St. At the Stop Sign, turn Right onto Plain St. which immediately turns into Pleasant St., 450 Pleasant Street is on your right, after the Lions Club International Sign (on your right).

495 North (from the Cape): Traveling on 495 North take Exit #7A, 24 North. Follow 24N to Exit #16A, Route 106 East; Follow directions for Rte.106 as above.

495 South (from Worcester): Traveling on 495 South take Exit #8,138 North. Follow 138N to Route 106 East. Follow directions for Rte.106 as above.

Route 3 North (from the Cape): Traveling on Rte. 3 North take Route 44 West to 495 North. From 495N take Exit #7A, 24 North. Follow 24 N to Exit #16A, Route 106 East. Follow directions for Rte.106 as above.

Route 3 South (from Boston): Traveling on Rte. 3 South take Exit #16 Weymouth. Take right off exit and follow Rte. 18 South. Turn right onto Highland Street (Sullivan Tire will be on your left). At stop sign, turn left onto Elm Street. Take your 1st immediate right onto Belmont Street (no street sign). At 2nd stop sign, take left onto Plain Street. Plain Street quickly becomes Pleasant Street, 450 Pleasant Street is on your right immediately after the Lions International Sign (on your right).

Parking

Free Parking is available in front of the clinic. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call: 617-680-8447. We look forward to your visit!