

# SARS-CoV-2: an ophthalmic threat

SARS-CoV-2 is a novel coronavirus which causes COVID-19. During the SARS-CoV epidemic, tears were found to be a possible medium of transmission. It is expected that SARS-CoV-2 could spread in a similar way. **Ophthalmic medical devices that make direct contact with the eye could be carriers of the virus.**

## HELP TACKLE THE SPREAD OF SARS-CoV-2

Coronaviruses such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS-CoV) can be spread through cough droplets and tears<sup>1</sup>. It is expected that SARS-CoV-2 could spread in a similar way. **Ophthalmic medical devices making direct contact with the eye could be carriers of SARS-CoV-2.**

Current advice from health organisations states the incubation period of SARS-CoV-2 is 14 days<sup>2</sup>, however a recent paper suggests an incubation period of up to 24 days<sup>3</sup>. **Patients who do not display symptoms could still be infectious. As a result further spread of the virus may be caused by improper disinfection of medical devices.**

Any medical device making direct contact with mucous membranes (such as the surface of the eye) **must undergo high-level disinfection, regardless of whether the patient is known to be infectious or not.**

<sup>1</sup>Loon et al. (2004) 'The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus in tears', *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, 88(7): 861-863. <sup>2</sup>UK Government (2020) 'Coronavirus: latest information and advice' Online: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public?gclid=EAlalQobChMioMqRyaLH5wVILHtCh2oXwvVEAAYASAAEgKv\\_PD\\_BwE](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public?gclid=EAlalQobChMioMqRyaLH5wVILHtCh2oXwvVEAAYASAAEgKv_PD_BwE) Accessed: 10/02/2020. <sup>3</sup>Guan et al. (2020) 'Clinical characteristics of 2019 novel coronavirus infection in China' *medRxiv*. Available online: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.02.06.20020974v1> Accessed: 10/02/2020

## FOR OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL DEVICES

Tristel Duo OPH is specifically designed for the high-level disinfection of ophthalmic medical devices, with proven efficacy against viruses in 30 seconds.

**Help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 with Tristel Duo OPH.**