For over 62 years, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin has pursued its vision for each Wisconsin resident to have healthy vision at every stage of life. COVID-19 has changed the landscape for vision screening in schools, increasing the importance of a pediatric vision screening at a child’s well-child visit. For children ages 3 to 5 years, 1 in 20 will have a vision problem. For children 6 years and older, 1 in 4 will have a vision problem.

**CHILDREN AGES 3-5 YEARS**

**Best Practice Method:** Optotype based vision screening with a 5ft chart, using occluder glasses to check each eye individually. Best practice chart is known as the EyeCheck.

**Acceptable Practice Method:** Instrument based vision screening with the SPOT Vision Screener device or the PlusOptix.

**CHILDREN AGES 6+ YEARS**

**Best Practice Method:** Distance Visual Acuity screening with a 10ft Snellen/Sloan wall chart, using an occluder paddle to screen each eye individually. LEA symbols can be used for children who do not know the alphabet.

**YOUR ROLE IN PEDIATRIC VISION HEALTH:**
For most children, 80% of their learning happens visually and this learning extends far beyond educational basics, like reading and arithmetic, to include social and emotional development as well. For many children with a vision problem, treatment is as simple as a pair of glasses and has an incredible impact on their success in the classroom and beyond. Research has shown that just 6 weeks of vision correction can improve a child’s standardized tests scores to match those of peers without vision problems.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF VISION SCREENING:**
Medical support staff can provide an evidence-based vision screening during the check-in process of the appointment. A school-aged vision screening takes about 1 minute, while a preschool screening takes about 3 minutes to complete. This is a billable service and adds value to the child’s appointment.

**CERTIFIED VISION SCREENER TRAININGS:**
Prevent Blindness Wisconsin provides virtual vision screener training and certification. This one hour class can be scheduled at a convenient time for office staff and can be split into multiple sessions if needed. For current listing of classes, visit: https://wisconsin.preventblindness.org/certified-vision-screening-training-dates-locations/