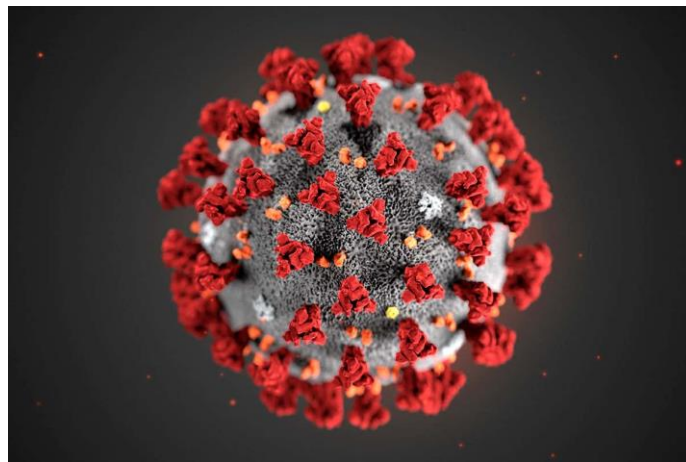




Epping Surgery Centre

## COVID-19 & Elective Surgery at ESC



The SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, is part of a large group of viruses termed coronaviruses after their distinctive appearance. After arising from animal origins in late 2019, it has now spread worldwide and is continuing to cause significant morbidity and mortality along with unprecedented social and economic disruption.

Because of the real potential of a major demand on Australian healthcare services (as evidenced by overseas experiences) in the subsequent weeks and the lack of Personal Protective Equipment available at the time, the Federal Government suspended elective surgery as of midnight on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020. Only essential category 1 and urgent category 2 cases were allowed to continue [Epping Surgery Centre](#) has successfully maintained this emergency service during April.

Due to the successful reduction in cases that NSW and Australia as a whole have achieved, combined with the increased supply of medical equipment and Personal Protective Equipment, restrictions on elective surgery have been eased from the 27<sup>th</sup> April. From this date, 25% of elective surgery cases (in addition to the emergency cases already being undertaken) were permitted to recommence. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, NSW Health allowed

[Epping Surgery Centre](#) to increase to 50% with further increases up to 75% permitted throughout June 2020. This is being successfully implemented with the aim to prioritise people who need surgery the most, first. In introducing elective surgery again, the aim is also to ensure that a procedure can be undergone safely for both the patient and our staff.

To that end, competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and protocols for theatre management, including patient and staff risk assessment and social distancing, were introduced. [Epping Surgery Centre](#) is also ready to respond to any rise in COVID-19 cases in the future if this unfortunately should occur. [Click here](#) to read more.

## International Nurses Day



International Nurses Day was established by the International Council of Nurses in 1965 to celebrate the important role nurses play in our society. In 1974, the 12<sup>th</sup> of May was chosen as the date to celebrate the day as it is the birthday of the founder of modern nursing, Florence

Nightingale. This year, it was particularly significant as it coincided with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth, and is in the World Health Organisation's designated International Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

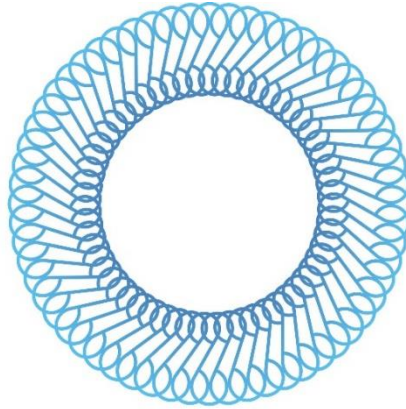
Florence Nightingale became well known for caring for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War in the 1850's. Interestingly, her statistical analysis of the disease rates at the time and her graphical representation of these results, in some ways, was equally important as it enabled her to convince the government of the time to improve the unsanitary conditions in the hospitals there. Disease statistics have unfortunately become a familiar topic recently. She subsequently returned to England and established the first secular Nursing School in the world. Florence sent one of only two international teams of nurses to Sydney in the 1860's to establish the Nightingale system of Nursing in Australia. She was also heavily involved in health promotion, hospital design and social reform during her life.

The Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has issued a special greeting to all nurses on International Nurses Day to praise the leadership, skill, knowledge, compassion and commitment of the nursing profession and to acknowledge the contribution that nurses make to the community.

[Epping Surgery Centre](#) celebrated the occasion with our nursing team and would like to thank all our Nurses for their dedication, care, commitment and for all their hard work and understanding during this difficult time of COVID-19.

[Click here](#) to read more.

# Optometrist Online



## OPTOMETRIST ONLINE

[Optometrist Online](#) is a free website with Optometrist Association Australia (OAA) approved education Modules for Continuing Professional Development Points. Optometrist Online will be adding the following new modules as of the 1st December, 2019:

- What to Consider – Gonioscopy, Anterior Segment, Optic Disk and IOPs
- Cataract Comprehensive with Retina
- Understanding Systemic Diseases
- Surgery Case Studies
- Common Corneal and Anterior Segment Cases
- Practical Guides for Busy Optometric Practices

Earn 2-3 CPD points per module with a mixture of Therapeutic and Non-Therapeutic available. [Click here](#) to register.

# Featured Doctors



## [Dr Gayatri Banerjee](#)

Dr Banerjee graduated with Honours from the University of New South Wales, and extensively trained in Ophthalmology at some of the leading centres in the world including Oxford, London, Melbourne, Sydney and Houston Texas USA, completing dual specialist Ophthalmology training from both the prestigious Moorfields Eye Hospital, London and Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney.

She undertook a further two years of Subspecialist fellowship training at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London with a special interest in Diabetes, Macular Degeneration and Retinal Disorders, and has participated in many Multicentre Clinical Trials in Ophthalmology. She has also worked with the Royal Flying Doctor Service Outback Eye Program and has an interest in teaching and public speaking.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, European Society of Retina Specialists, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

[Click here](#) to read more.