

Family & Consumer Science

A Note About Your Eyes

Are you holding the newspaper farther away from your eyes than you used to? Join the crowd ~ Age can bring changes that affect your eyesight. Some changes are more serious than others, but for many problems there are things you can do to protect your vision. The first step is to have your eyes checked regularly by an eye care professional, either an ophthalmologist or optometrist. People over age 65 should have yearly eye exams. During this exam, the eye care professional should put drops in your eyes that will widen, or also called dilate, your pupils so that he or she can look at your inner eye. This is the only way to see some common eye diseases that have no early signs or symptoms. If you wear glasses, your prescription should be checked also. See your doctor regularly to check for diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure. These diseases can cause eye problems if not treated. See an eye care professional right away if you:

- Suddenly cannot see or everything looks dim,
- You see flashes of light,
- You have eye pain,
- You experience double vision, or
- You have redness or swelling of your eye or eyelid.

Protect your eyes from too much sunlight by wearing sunglasses that block ultraviolet (UV) radiation and a hat with a wide brim when you are outside.

For more information you can visit the
National Eye Institute at www.nei.nih.gov
or Extension at www.uaex.edu

