Luxottica and Versace together to tackle COVID-19 among employees in Italy

Milan (Italy), October 6, 2020 – Luxottica and Versace announced today that Luxottica will share part of its robust COVID-19 prevention, detection and research program in Italy with Versace in the country. A successful element of the program revolves around active surveillance and risk management. The objective is to detect infected individuals, even asymptomatic, through swab testing of risk profiled employees. This program, which was developed in conjunction with the University of Padua, will now be adopted by Versace.

Over the past six months, Luxottica has built an expansive model within its facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among its employees. From reconfiguring the flow of the plant to shipping masks to employees’ homes and families to staggered shifts and temperature checks, Luxottica has invested substantial resources to protect its people and create a safe workplace during this difficult period.

One key aspect of the Company’s open preventative model is a swab testing program under the scientific coordination of the Department of Molecular Medicine directed by Professor Andrea Crisanti at the University of Padua. Supported by a significant contribution from the Leonardo Del Vecchio Foundation, the University created a new COVID-19 Laboratory capable of processing up to a maximum of 40,000 diagnostic tests per month.

Now, Luxottica and the University of Padua will expand the research surveillance program to Luxottica’s key partners in Italy, the first of which will be Versace. Versace employees will now have access to a voluntarily swab test to detect the presence of coronavirus. This model will help Versace, with whom Luxottica has had a business relationship for over 17 years, to prevent outbreaks within its company and promote a healthy workforce.

The first phase of the project, which started in July, involves the company’s employees from the Milan and Novara offices with a second swab campaign for the fall.

“We are pleased to share our open prevention model and capabilities with our partners in Italy who want to join us including Versace, whose values have always been aligned with ours, in order to pursue the common mission of keeping our organizations safe and healthy. There is no better way to honor our role as a socially responsible company than to invest in our people and by extension, the people who have worked alongside of us for years. We are proud of our collaboration with the University of Padua and believe the work we’re doing together to stop the spread of COVID-19 among Italian workers will have an important impact long term”, commented Francesco Milleri, Deputy Chairman - CEO of Luxottica.

"Here at Versace, the safety and well-being of our community has always been the top priority. During this period of global pandemic, we have always been attentive to the health of our employees, and this is why we have decided to take another step towards preventing COVID-19 infections. We are proud to partner with Luxottica and collaborate with the Department of Molecular Medicine of the University of Padova to offer all Versace employees the opportunity
to undergo swab tests in order to diagnose any possible COVID-19 positive results as fast as possible. Currently the most efficient and reliable method to identify cases of contagion and possible asymptomatic cases, the swab tests are conducted in the Milan and Novara offices, starting from July, with a second phase for the fall. This is not just a duty towards our employees, but the entire community in order to stop the spread of COVID-19," added Jonathan Akeroyd, CEO of Versace.

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Luxottica is a leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of fashion, luxury and sports eyewear. Its portfolio includes proprietary brands such as Ray-Ban, Oakley, Costa, Vogue Eyewear, Persol, Oliver Peoples and Alain Mikli, as well as licensed brands including Giorgio Armani, Burberry, Bulgari, Chanel, Coach, Dolce&Gabbana, Ferrari, Michael Kors, Prada, Ralph Lauren, Tiffany & Co., Valentino and Versace. The Group’s global wholesale distribution network covers more than 150 countries and is complemented by an extensive retail network of approximately 9,000 stores, with LensCrafters and Pearle Vision in North America, OPSM, LensCrafters and Spectacle Hut in Asia-Pacific, GMO and Óticas Carol in Latin America, Salmoiraghi & Viganò in Italy and Sunglass Hut worldwide. [www.luxottica.com](http://www.luxottica.com)

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Founded in 1978, the Gianni Versace S.r.l. is one of the leading global fashion design houses. Under the Artistic Direction of Donatella Versace since 1997, Gianni Versace S.r.l. designs, manufactures and distributes fashion and lifestyle products including haute couture, women and men ready-to-wear, jewelry, watches, accessories, fragrances and home collection. Gianni Versace S.r.l. is part of Capri Holdings Limited global fashion luxury group. [www.versace.com](http://www.versace.com)