



Red Amber Green (RAG) operating model

As testing and tracing improve, it is likely there will be more localised Covid-19 risk ratings and therefore more localised lockdowns/restrictions could follow. You should have protocols in place so you can respond to local changes in the Covid-19 risk rating – e.g. a practice in Manchester might have a different Covid-19 risk level to practices in Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast and therefore might not be able to offer the same level of services.

The College of Optometrists has helpfully published a RAG model which will help you prepare for such scenarios in the months ahead. There are now three main Covid-19 risk levels:

- **Red:** Unnecessary movement prohibited. Public instructed not to leave the house other than for daily exercise and essential shopping, and to avoid non-essential travel or contact with other people outside the single household bubble. Face to face essential, urgent or emergency eyecare, and essential contact lens practice only, dependant on local or national protocols
- **Amber:** No full lockdown but COVID-19 still in general circulation. PPE still required. Face to face needs and/or symptoms led eyecare and contact lens practice as prioritised by a clinician dependent on local or national protocols. Meet outstanding eye care needs as capacity permits ([England](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#)). Domiciliary care as per local protocols. HES referrals as per local protocols
- **Green:** Post Covid-19, new normal. All eye care resumes on an open access basis.

[Access the Colleges summary Covid-19 guidance.](#)

Members are encouraged to keep up to date with and implement [College of Optometrists' opensource Covid-19 guidance](#).