

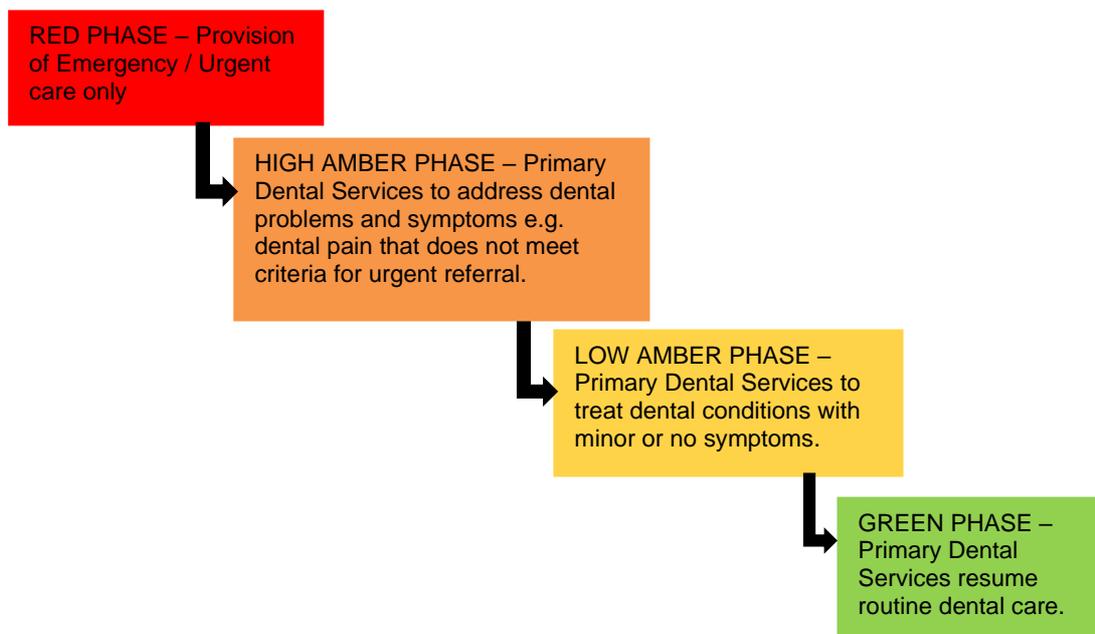
NHSBSA Dental Services

In the spotlight

Article 7: Wales De-escalation Pandemic Plan for Dentistry July 2020

On 22 May 2020, the Chief Dental Officer (CDO) for Wales announced the implementation of a phased, risk based re-establishment of dental services in Wales to meet population needs (Read [here](#)). A subsequent letter dated 10 June 2020 detailed the all Wales Single Operating Procedure (SOP) as part of the recovery plan ([SOP for AGPs](#)).

The approach aims to deliver dental services in a way that prioritises dental care services for those most at risk of serious complications. A staged process will reintroduce dental care procedures.



The decision to move from one alert status to another will be based on emerging evidence relating to community transmission, and the risks and prevention of transmission within the dental environment. On the 19 June 2020, in accordance with the [Written Statement](#), it was announced that Dental Services in Wales were to move to the Amber phase of de-escalation from Monday 22 June 2020.

There may be the need for local or regional variation during de-escalation depending on a number of factors including:

- Local disease epidemiology and community disease transmission;
- Levels of immunity in the population;
- Practices may be asked to return to the Red phase if they are operating in areas identified as having high levels of circulating disease.

This article is the first of a series of articles providing an update on the staged re-introduction of Dental services.

High Amber Phase

22 June 2020 – 30 September 2020

ALL ROUTINE DENTAL TREATMENT DELAYED – Delay all non-urgent / non-emergency treatment for people with and without COVID-19.

- Increase the availability of dental care in general dental practice for Non-COVID patients, to include non-aerosol generating procedure (AGP) treatments for dental conditions causing pain and other dental symptoms.
- Increase the availability of treatment, to include non-AGPs, for patients who are currently being treated for orthodontics, or who are in the middle of a course of dental treatment to manage or address issues arising from their care.
- Minimise unnecessary clinical contact and maintain social distancing in accordance with guidance to reduce the risk of person to person spread.
- To avoid unnecessary public health risks, AGPs will only be provided at Health Board designated Urgent Dental Care Centres (UDCs) and approved primary care dental practices. UDCs will continue to treat: COVID patients and non-COVID patients who need urgent / emergency treatment or require an AGP. Additional primary care dental practices – where identified by the Health Boards as having the capacity for enhanced cross infection, donning / doffing areas, sufficient PPE and specialist / highly experienced staff – will also treat non-COVID patients who require urgent / emergency treatment and require an AGP.

1. General Dental Practices only offering non-AGP procedures

a) Patients that can be seen for face-to face care in general dental practice:

- Patients with **NO** symptoms of COVID who require urgent / emergency dental care needs.
- Patients with **NO** symptoms of COVID who require care to alleviate dental symptoms.
- Patients with **NO** symptoms of COVID who require care to manage oral health conditions.

b) Procedures allowed in general dental practice:

- Any necessary treatment with a low risk of aerosol generation
- Any treatment should **NOT** involve the use of the 3 in 1 syringe, high-speed handpiece, surgical handpieces or ultrasonic devices.

2. General Dental Practices offering AGP procedures

a) Which patients can be seen at a General Dental Practice offering AGP procedures for face-to face care:

- Patients with **NO** symptoms of COVID who need urgent/emergency care including those that require AGPs
- Dental practices, who are ready to do so, can open more fully and relax the criteria for urgent care assessment, to see and treat more of their patients ahead of the earlier planned date of 1 July.

3. UDCs in Secondary Care or Community Dental Service (CDS)

a) Which patients can be seen at secondary care or CDS UDCS for face-to face care:

- Patients with symptoms of COVID who need urgent/emergency care

- Patients requiring AGPs

b) Procedures allowed at secondary care or CDS UDCs:

- Urgent/Emergency procedures that involve any of the following:
 - A need for aerosol generation
 - A high risk of aerosol generationA high risk patient

(All treatment offered in either General Dental Practice or a UDC should be based on a risk assessment of the patient, operator, time and difficulty of procedure)

Patients who are shielded or who required domiciliary dental care will be managed by the CDS.

References:

- https://dental.walesdeanery.org/sites/default/files/2020-05-22_-_cdo_letter_-_restoration_of_dental_services_-_22.05.20.pdf
- https://dental.walesdeanery.org/sites/default/files/2020-06-10_-_standard_operating_procedures_for_agps_on_non-covid-19_patients_final.pdf
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