

Post COVID-19 Low Vision Rehabilitation Optometry Clinic Re-Opening and Scheduling

- Please follow local VA facility scheduling guidelines, dependent upon your Low Vision Rehabilitation Optometry Clinic setting/location: VA Medical Center, VA Healthcare Center, VA Outpatient Clinic, or Community-based Outpatient Clinic.
- There should not be many Low Vision/Blind patients in Risk Priority 1. If, after screening, the patient has Risk Priority 1 findings, refer for urgent or emergent care, as appropriate.
- Low Vision/Blind patients fall under Risk Priority 2 and should wait for normal appointment scheduling to resume. In the interim, Low Vision Optometry should address as many of these Veterans' needs as possible through Telehealth (telephone, secure messaging, or video encounters).
- New Low Vision/Blind patients with more recent visual impairment onset needing rehabilitation care to improve visual functioning and independence should have priority for initial face-to-face care appointments.
- Consider managing established Low Vision/Blind patients visual rehabilitation needs virtually through Telehealth until greater appointment capacity exists.
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should follow Optometry Clinic guidelines for all face-to face appointments.