

# COVID-19 Updates

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## Covid secure elections

We've introduced new measures for the elections next Thursday (6 May) to make them as safe as possible.

The elections are for a new Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, for Cookham Parish and Eton Town Councils, and a referendum on the adoption of the Windsor Neighbourhood Plan.

We've made some changes to some of the usual polling station locations so check your polling card to see where yours is. You can, for this election, use your own pen or pencil to mark your ballot paper although if you forget there'll be spare ones available. To reduce the time you spend in the polling station, and your contact with the staff there, take along your polling card. And don't forget your mask.

Polling stations will be open 7am to 10pm. For more [details about this election, the polling stations, and our COVID-19 measures, visit our website.](#)

*Photo shows this year's postal vote counting at Maidenhead Town Hall.*



## Royal Borough cases

As of this morning, there are 32.4 cases per 100,000 - creeping up again but expected. It reflects rises among schoolchildren and teenagers (10 to 19 years) and working adults (35 to 44 years). Remember, the statistics now also include cases picked up by more widespread community and home testing.

St Mary's ward has the highest rate across the Royal Borough. Slough continues to have highest rate in South East, although this has reduced this past week. Our other nearby local authorities have similar rates to us.

The Royal Borough's case rates are updated daily on the [Berkshire Public Health website](#). The weekly reports, updated on Wednesday evenings, show case breakdowns per Royal Borough ward as well as transmission rates. The site also has information about vaccinations and testing.



## Vaccination latest

Across the Royal Borough, Frimley NHS Health & Care has so far administered vaccines to:

- 95% - ages 80+
- 94% - 75 to 79
- 93% - 70 to 74
- 91% - 65 to 69
- 87% - 60 to 64
- 86% - 55 to 59
- 84% - 50 to 54
- 72% - 45 to 49

Across Berkshire, 94% of people aged 80+ have now been vaccinated as well as 89% of those aged 50+.

But remember, even vaccinated, you can still catch COVID-19 although it's highly unlikely you'll be hospitalised. And you could still infect others not yet vaccinated so resist the urge - and we know it's hard - to hug loved ones not in your household bubble.

The vaccination programme is being run by the NHS, not the council. For Frimley NHS Health & Care's statistics [see regional and national data on the NHS England website](#).



## Testing for COVID-19

A negative lateral flow test (LFT) says you're probably not asymptomatic but should still take precautions. A positive result says you're probably carrying the virus and should take a PCR test within 48 hours which, if negative, means you can come out of self-isolation.

You can get hold of free LFTs in a number of ways:

- [Book in for a test via our Community Testing](#) at either Braywick or Windsor Leisure Centres
- [Collect your home tests via our Community Collect](#) scheme at the above leisure centres
- Visit our drive-through collect service at Ascot Racecourse (car park 3), Mondays and Wednesdays from 8am to midday
- Collect them from a local pharmacy
- Be tested via your employer
- Be tested via education settings (nursery, school, college and university) if you work there or attend as a student
- Order them online from gov.uk to be sent to your home

For [more details about these different options visit the rapid testing site on the NHS website.](#)



## Business fire safety

Do you run a business with COVID-19 safety controls for your customers such as screens, temporary structures, and one-way systems?

If so, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (RBFRS) suggests you update your Fire Risk Assessment to check these safety measures aren't potential fire risks.

Find out more about [safely re-opening or running your business, as well as contact details of your local Fire Safety Office, on the RBFRS website.](#)



## All the latest at your fingertips

Keep abreast of all the Royal Borough's non COVID-19 news in our other weekly e-newsletter. You can [sign up for it here](#) and unsubscribe at any time. You're in control.

## Helpful contacts

[COVID-19 support in the Royal Borough](#)

[Government roadmap out of lockdown](#)

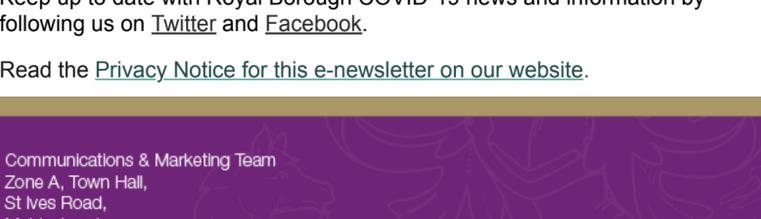
[Government COVID-19 information](#)

[Public Health England and Department of Health and Social Care guidance](#)

[NHS England advice](#)

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