

COVID-19 Updates

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Taking the next step

From Monday, the message from central government is changing to 'living with COVID' and 'managing risk.' The focus will be on how we should all behave responsibly.

If you haven't yet, check out the [government's Step 4 guidance](#) on its website. It has also published new guidance if you're [clinically extremely vulnerable](#).

Most legal restrictions will be lifted, including the two-metre rule and the legal requirement to wear face coverings. However, the government expects and recommends people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport. A number of businesses and other private venues are expected to ask people to still wear face coverings upon entry.



Royal Borough statistics

As of today, in the Royal Borough there are 223.9 cases per 100,000 – a figure last seen at the beginning of this year. In the last two weeks, 44% of all new cases locally have been among ages 18 to 24, and 26% of cases among the under-18's. Yet case rates are also increasing across other ages – noticeably among those in their 30s.

We're not however seeing a dramatic increase in hospitalisations and deaths as in previous waves. The vaccine does appear to be breaking the link between infections, serious illness and death. In other parts of the country where COVID-19 hospitalisations are higher, the majority of these aren't vaccinated.

For the latest COVID-19 information in the Royal Borough - case rates, ward breakdowns, hospital data, vaccinations etc - visit the [Berkshire Public Health website](#) and see the weekly report in the information centre.



Arming up against COVID-19

The vaccine is a bit like a seat belt. It won't prevent you from having a crash, but if you wear one you're more likely to be okay.

We continue to help the NHS promote the vaccine. 62% of Royal Borough residents aged 18+, and 82% of residents aged 40+, have now had both jabs.

As more of the younger ages become vaccinated, vaccine hesitancy among those in their 30's are beginning to stand out in the statistics, underlined by the rise in their cases.

In addition to the national booking service or your GP, the NHS has walk-in clinics across the Royal Borough – no appointment necessary. Check out [Frimley CCG's website](#) to see walk-in venues, dates, and times.

We also have a mobile unit, unofficially called 'the vaccinator,' visiting locations across the borough offering jabs as well as testing.

The big issue now is Long Covid. One in ten of all cases, *whatever your age*, leads to its debilitating effects.

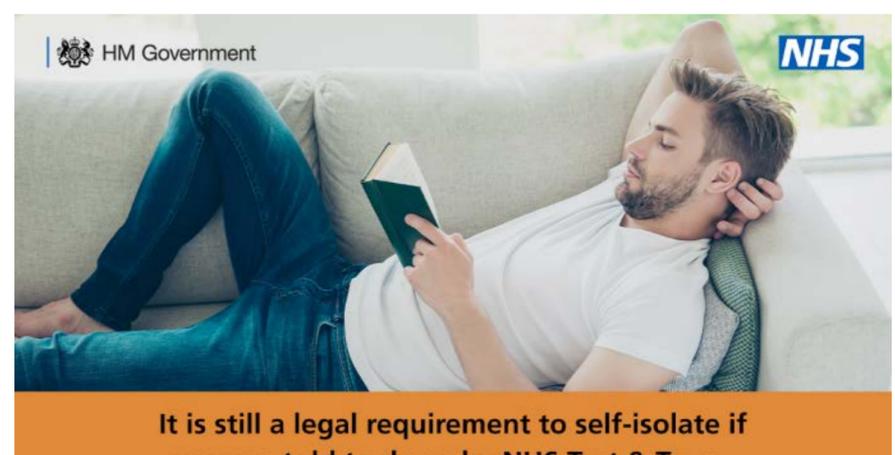


Outbreak Engagement Board

Do you want to know how we're managing this virus as we move into Step 4? Our next public Outbreak Engagement Board is being held next Monday. If you want submit your question there's still time to do so. The deadline is noon tomorrow (16 July).

Simply [email your question to our Democratic Services](#). You won't be able to ask questions during the session.

This meeting will be live streamed on our [YouTube channel](#) from 2.30pm.



It is still a legal requirement to self-isolate if you are told to do so by NHS Test & Trace.



Residents' Newsletter

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Keep up to date with 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 COVID-19 information](#)

[NHS England](#)

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