

# COVID-19 Updates

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Weekly rates by age group in RBWM from 6<sup>th</sup> August to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021



## Royal Borough cases

These continue to gradually increase. According to yesterday's latest published figures, it's 321.3 per 100,000, which is roughly in line with the South East and England averages.

The above heat map shows the spread of the virus per age group during the past few weeks - the darker the colour the higher. As you can see, the younger population is still the hardest hit but all other age groups are also affected. There's also an expectation there'll be a spike again in cases after schools return next week.

The heat map image shows the data from 19 August because we're always looking at the virus' spread with a rear-view mirror. This is due to the time delay between someone being infected, developing symptoms, and needing healthcare or their infection being verified by testing.

For the latest Covid 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.



## Back to school

To prepare for the start of autumn term next Wednesday (1 September), the Department for Education has published what's changing for students as well as what Covid measures remain.

The key changes are the removal of group/classroom bubbles as well as face masks (students, staff and visitors) in classrooms and communal areas. Masks should, however, still be worn on transport to and from school or college. And contact tracing is now being done by the NHS (not education settings).

But other measures remain such as regular testing – all students will be tested twice at the start of term for example - frequent hand washing, strict cleaning regimes in buildings and good ventilation. The guidance also sets out plans for school outbreaks and self-isolation.

To find out more [visit the Education Hub blog](#).



## Vaccinations

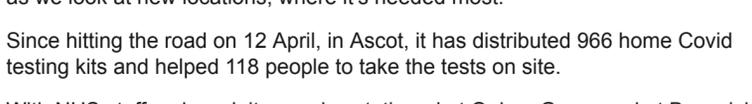
72% of Royal Borough residents aged 18+ have had both doses. For the first dose only, it's 83%.

Ages 20 to 24 in the borough are overtaking ages 25 to 39 in having their first jab. And we've already seen a good number of local 16 and 17-year-olds come forward for their first dose.

Yesterday, central government published [vaccine information for children and young people aged 12 to 15 years](#).

The NHS continues to run walk-in vaccination clinics across the borough. See details about these walk-in centres on the [Frimley CCG website](#). Please note the dates and times for these in the coming week tend to be updated at the beginning of that week. Alternatively, manage your jabs via the [national booking system](#).

The reality, sadly, even double-jabbed you can still catch the virus and still pass it on, but you're far less likely to become seriously ill or suffer Long Covid. Local hospital admissions for Covid are still low but are slowing increasing.



## Mobile testing update

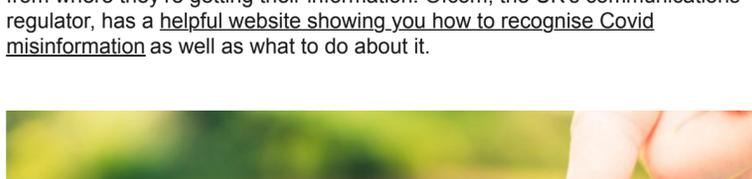
A big thank you to those of you who visited our mobile testing and 'vaccinator' across the borough during the past few months. It's now taking a short break as we look at new locations, where it's needed most.

Since hitting the road on 12 April, in Ascot, it has distributed 966 home Covid testing kits and helped 118 people to take the tests on site.

With NHS staff on board, it was also stationed at Oaken Grove and at Braywick Leisure Centre, where they administered 295 Covid vaccinations.

We'll let you know when it's back up and running, via this newsletter and on our Facebook and Twitter.

In the meantime, government advice to test yourself twice weekly remains - whether vaccinated or not. See our website to find out where you can [get hold of free Covid tests](#).



## Family and friends who are anti-vaxxers

It can be heart breaking talking about Covid or its vaccine to loved ones if they simply don't believe the wealth of official information available.

If their hesitancy or concerns cannot be satisfied by healthcare professionals, and their mindset is led by fake Covid news online, arguing with them will only further upset everyone involved.

One approach could be to suggest they fact check the reliability of the sources from where they're getting their information. Ofcom, the UK's communications regulator, has a [helpful website showing you how to recognise Covid misinformation](#) as well as what to do about it.

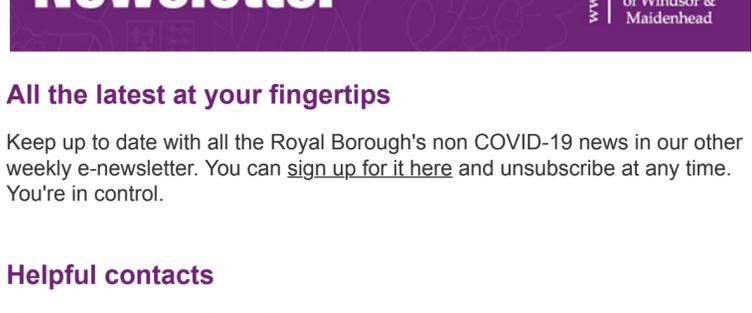


## The R value and growth rate

The R value (reproduction number) in the South East is currently between 0.9 and 1.2 meaning that, on average, every ten people infected will infect between 9 and 12 other people.

The growth rate is currently between -2% and +3% which means the number of new infections could be broadly flat, shrinking by up to 2% every day or growing by up to 3% every day.

For more details [visit GOV.UK](#).



## All the latest at your fingertips

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 support in the Royal Borough](#)

[Government Covid information](#)

[NHS England](#)

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