

COVID-19 Updates

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BREAK THE CHAIN



Additional Covid measures in schools

On Wednesday we sent a letter to headteachers at all borough schools, recommending they implement enhanced Covid measures, over and above current government guidance, as soon as possible.

This is due to infection rates among school aged children now at the highest the borough has seen since the start of this pandemic.

The immediate health risks of Covid to children and young people, and vaccinated school staff, may be low. But the current case rates and the number of outbreaks in our educational settings is impacting attendance causing disruption to children's education as well as the roll out of the Covid vaccination programme in secondary schools.

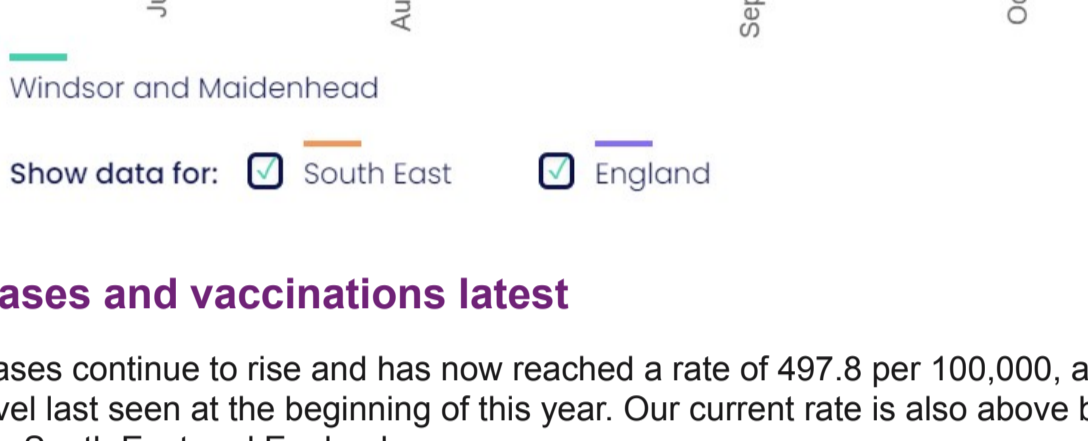
We've strongly advised headteachers implement the following:

- Use of face coverings in communal areas (unless exempt) for staff, children, and visitors in both primary and secondary schools
- Reduce contact between and within year groups in school where possible
- Enhanced LFD and PCR testing when either a child or member of staff has a household member testing positive, or when a child or member of staff is identified via Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive case

You can read the [letter in full on the news section of our website](#).

Weekly rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population

in Windsor and Maidenhead (7-day rolling average)
Reported up to 15 Oct 2021



Cases and vaccinations latest

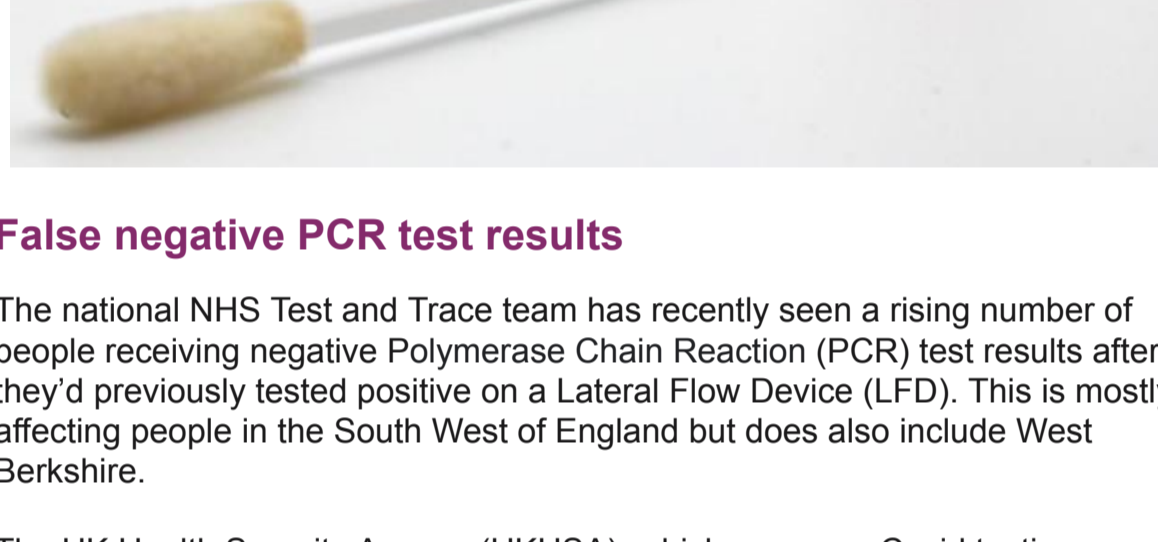
Cases continue to rise and has now reached a rate of 497.8 per 100,000, a level last seen at the beginning of this year. Our current rate is also above both the South East and England averages.

Ages 10 to 19 in the borough continue to be hit the hardest by far, but infections among ages 40 to 54 are also rising. We believe this may be due to household transmission linked to school aged children.

Thankfully, however, local hospitalisations and deaths remain low, which show the vaccine is working. The vaccine continues to be your best defence against serious illness, along with [regular testing](#).

80% of borough residents aged 18+ are now doubled jabbed, and 86% of those aged 40+.

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



False negative PCR test results

The national NHS Test and Trace team has recently seen a rising number of people receiving negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test results after they'd previously tested positive on a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). This is mostly affecting people in the South West of England but does also include West Berkshire.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which oversees Covid testing, issued a statement last Friday. This was to ease public fears - that the laboratory processing of the test results was at fault not the tests themselves - and as a result to stress the importance of continuing to use LFD and PCR tests.

Stuart Lines (Director of Public Health for Berkshire East) and Meradin Peachey (Director of Public Health for Berkshire West) have shared this UKHSA statement on the [news section of the Berkshire Public Health website](#), where you can read it in full.

Covid grants for community groups, voluntary & not for profit organisations

We're all in this together

Covid grant for community groups

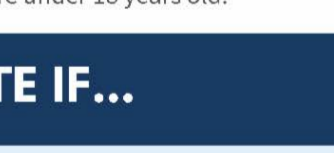
We mentioned this new funding in last week's newsletter, but if you know of a group or organisation in the borough that might qualify, it would be great if you could let them know.

This funding is specifically to support hidden or hard to reach communities within the Royal Borough, to help boost uptake of the vaccination and regular testing. Our Eastern European communities are one such group we'd like to hear from as they're being disproportionately affected by Covid.

You apply for this one-off grant funding online, and the closing date for applications is Sunday 21 November.

For more information, and to apply, [visit our website](#).

WHEN DO I NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE?



IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS?

You should [self-isolate](#) and [take a PCR test](#) even if you've been vaccinated and even if you are under 18 years old.

IF I'VE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

You need to [self-isolate](#) for 10 days from receipt of your test result even if you have been vaccinated and even if you are under 18 years old.

SHOULD I SELF-ISOLATE IF...

Q I'm double vaccinated and I've been in contact with someone who's tested positive?

A **NO:** You do not need to self-isolate, **BUT** you are advised to [take a PCR test](#). You only need to self-isolate if your result is positive.

Q I'm under 18 and I've been in contact with someone who's tested positive?

A **NO:** You do not need to self isolate, **BUT** you are advised to [take a PCR test](#). You only need to self-isolate if your result is positive.

Q I've been in contact with someone who's tested positive and I'm over 18 and I've had either one or no jabs?

A **YES:** You need to [self-isolate](#) and [take a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. You must continue to [self-isolate](#) even if your result is negative.

Q I'm a Healthcare Worker and I've been in contact with someone who's tested positive?

A **NO: BUT** you must [take a PCR test](#) immediately. If the PCR result is positive, you must self-isolate. If it is negative you must undertake daily lateral flow testing. Full details can be accessed [here](#).

Be prepared if you need to self-isolate. Ask family, friends or neighbours to do your food shop, collect your medication and help with the school run if needed. Ask your employer if you can work from home and make sure you can manage your bank account and payments online.

SELF-ISOLATING MEANS STAYING AT HOME



STAY SAFE AT HOME



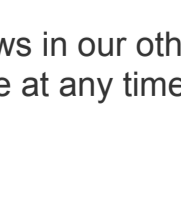
SUPPORT IF YOU ARE SELF-ISOLATING

You may be eligible for financial support if you are unable to work due to COVID-19. Click [here](#) to find out about support available to you.

If you need practical support the NHS Volunteer Responders programme is still available. Call 0808 196 3646 between 8am and 8pm, 7 days a week or click [here](#) for the website.

Residents' Newsletter

www.rbwm.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](#)

Keep up to date with Royal Borough Covid news and information by following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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