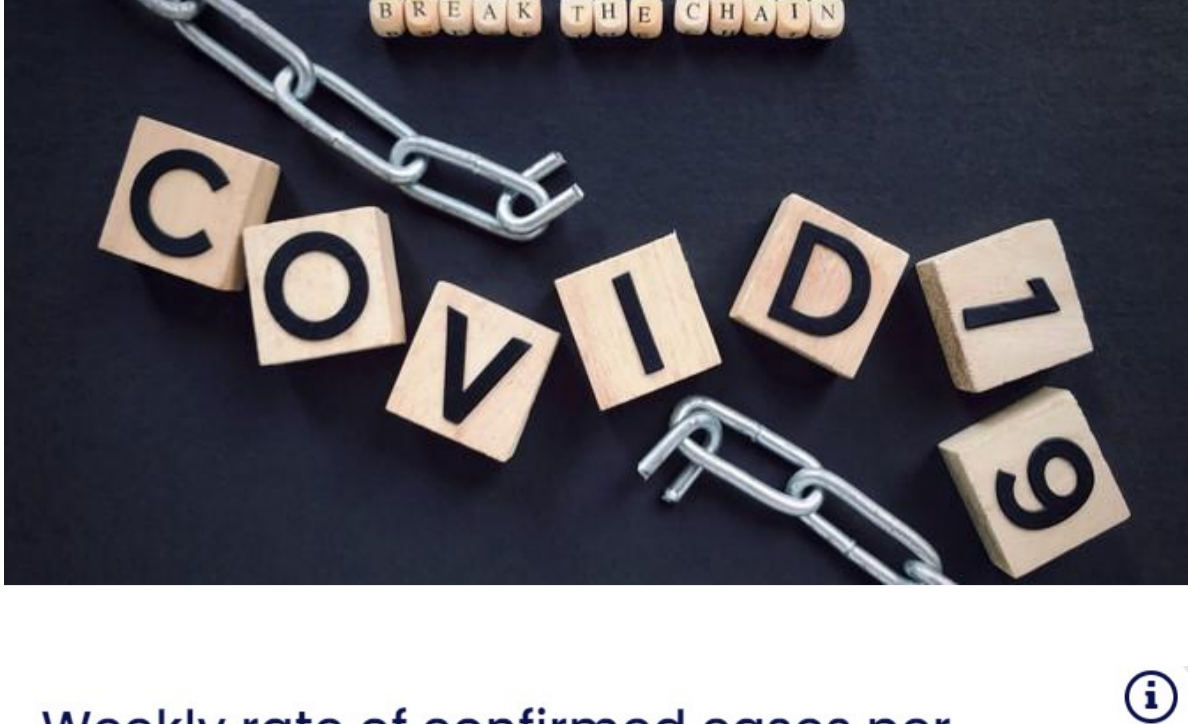


# COVID-19 Updates

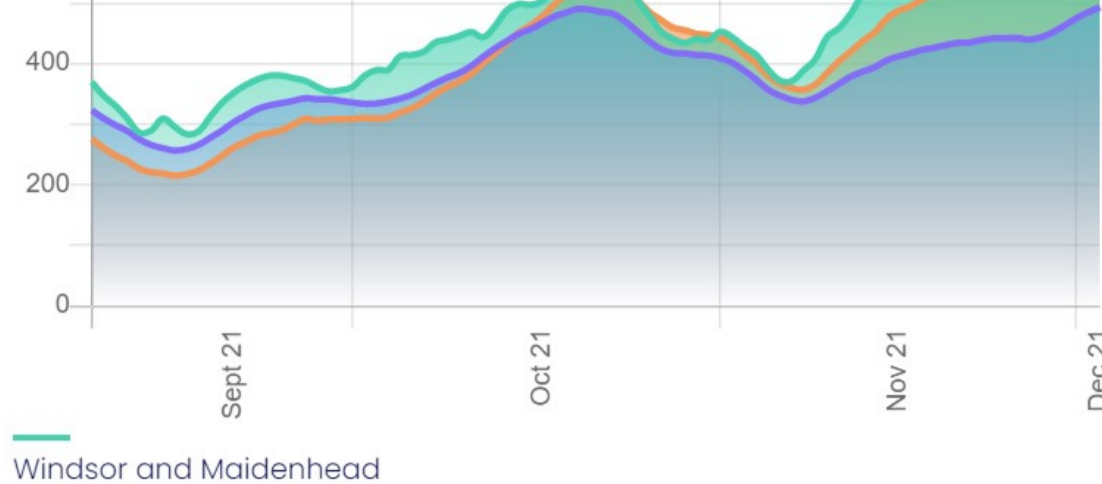
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## Weekly rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population

in Windsor and Maidenhead (7-day rolling average)

Reported up to 3 Dec 2021



### Royal Borough cases, testing and vaccines

Cases are rapidly rising again and are now at 682.2 per 100,000, which is broadly in line with the South East but sadly well above the England average.

Ages 5 to 14 and 40 to 49 are continuing to take the brunt of infections, although cases are also still increasing among all other ages apart from those over 64.

Assisted LFT testing at Braywick Leisure Centre remains at a consistent level, but we've seen a jump in the number of LFTs being collected from our leisure centre receptions to use at home. LFTs will tell you if you have Covid, but only a PCR can tell if it's Delta, Omicron, or another variant. Visit our website for details on [where you can get free LFTs](#).

63% of people aged 50+ in the borough have now received their three vaccination doses. 83% of the general population has had both jabs, leaving a sizeable number completely unprotected.

The boosters will continue to be offered in priority age order to protect those most at risk. Wait until the NHS contacts you to book yours on the online [National Booking System](#). When you're eligible, you may also be able to use a local walk-in site or pharmacy, but please see the [Frimley Health and Care website](#) as arrangements differ. If you do use a walk-in site, please cancel your online booking so it can be offered to someone else.

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.



### Plan B

The government has activated Plan B in response to the worrying rates of Omicron's community transmission. With cases now doubling every few days, there are fears about how this will effect the NHS already impacted by winter care and Covid backlogs.

Here's a quick reminder of the new measures:

- From tomorrow (10 December), wear your face covering in most indoor public places and on public transport. However, hospitality, night-time venues, and gyms are exempt
- From next Monday (13 December), work from home if you can
- From next Wednesday (15 December), use the NHS Covid vaccination pass (app), or show a negative LFT result (if you're not vaccinated), for nightclubs and other indoor and outside venues
- Open a window if you're meeting others indoors
- Test yourself regularly with a LFT, especially if you're going out to socialise or visit vulnerable family/friends, and self-isolate if you're positive and take a PCR
- If you haven't already, get your jabs or booster

[Read the measures in full on the gov.uk website.](#)



### Let's talk about Omicron

All viruses naturally change and evolve over time, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, is no exception.

Variants are classified 'of concern' once there's evidence of a change that could lead to it being sufficiently biologically different to impact the severity of infection, ability to cause more harm, or a change in its transmissibility.

You can still get Covid even vaccinated but vaccination protects against severe disease, as seen with the previous variants. That's why the messages and actions about vaccinations, and safety measures (see the article above) remain the bedrock to slow this variant until we know more.

It's already clear Omicron is far more transmittable but you still catch it the same way as Delta. Early indications show, in those countries with a head start on this variant, that symptoms are less severe. However, their outbreaks started in their under 40s, so as the ages of patients rise the impact of Omicron may change.

It also appears to be able to infect those who've already had Covid, both unvaccinated and partially vaccinated. This means natural immunity and partial vaccination antibodies appear at this stage to not be enough. Another reason to be fully vaccinated whether or not you've had Covid.



### Fancy being a vaccine volunteer?

The Primary Care Network vaccination centres in Windsor (Windsor Yards) and Maidenhead (Desborough Suite in the Town Hall) are seeking additional volunteers.

You can volunteer for the hours or days to suit you.

You must be over 18, be able to stand on your feet for a few hours, friendly and welcoming, a team player, and happy to be flexible and reactive in your approach.

You'll be trained and supported, must sign a confidentiality agreement, be professional in your interactions, and be supportive of the vaccine programme and local NHS initiatives.

Many of the existing volunteers say they've made good friends with other centre volunteers, enjoy the client interaction, and love doing something worthwhile for their community. It really is very rewarding.

For further details email [Adele Kidby](#) for Windsor, or [John Clegg](#) for Maidenhead.

## WHAT TYPE ARE YOU?

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We're all in this together

## Residents' Newsletter

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### 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](#).

Read the [Privacy Notice for this e-newsletter on our website](#).

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