

Please share with friends, family and neighbours in the borough so they can keep up to date. Sign up here if you've received a forwarded copy.

Community Lateral Flow Testing

We are setting up lateral flow testing sites for critical and key workers, and anyone who needs to leave home for work or crucial activity.

The new variant of COVID-19 is spreading through our community, and one in three COVID-19 patients don't present any symptoms.

Lateral flow testing (LFT) can identify positive COVID-19 cases in people who are not showing symptoms. This will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community by preventing these people from unknowingly spreading the virus.

When the LFT sites are up and running, eligible residents will get an email or text message inviting them to get a lateral flow test at a local test centre.

For more information about lateral flow testing, please visit the [Berkshire Public Health website](#).

Help keep our communities safe

A joint letter from the NHS and council leaders within the Frimley Health and Care System, which supports health services in the borough, has been published on our [website today](#).

The borough has high levels of COVID-19 infection and cases are still rising. The pressure on our NHS services is greater now than it has been at any previous stage in the pandemic, with an increase in the number of local people dying from the virus.

In [the letter](#), they thank you and ask for your continued support. Please take the time to read the letter as it gives details of the things you can do to support the NHS and help keep your communities safe.

Update to GP surgery services

Local GP surgeries are a critical part of the NHS and care for the most vulnerable members of our community. To keep patients and staff safe, GP practices are currently prioritising those most at risk from the impact of Covid and those with the greatest health needs.

[Minor illness](#) and conditions that can be dealt with by community pharmacies will **not be seen** by your GP. If you are feeling unwell and it's not an emergency, the [Know Where to Go When Feeling Unwell](#) guide will give you advice on where to go for help.

GP surgeries remain open for any urgent and on-going health needs but please don't call your local practice to ask about the COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the [NHS website](#).

Ask for ANI

Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a new Government codeword scheme to provide a discreet way for victims of domestic abuse to signal that they need emergency help.

Victims of domestic abuse in need of help can 'Ask for ANI' when they next visit their local pharmacy. A trained pharmacist will provide a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services such as a national or local domestic abuse helpline.

The scheme will initially be available in all 2,300 Boots pharmacies across the UK as well as in over 250 independent pharmacies.

To find out more, read the [Government news article about Ask for Ani](#).

2021/22 council budget consultation closes next week

You only have one week left to have your say on our draft budget for the next financial year. The draft budget sets out how your council tax will be spent and how we invest in services for you.

The consultation closes on **Friday 29 January**. To get involved and have your say, visit our [budget consultation page](#).

You may have received a letter with information about the budget as we sent out a random sample of letters to residents explaining how they can get involved in the consultation.

The consultation responses will be reviewed and taken into account when the budget is proposed at Cabinet on Thursday 4 February.

COVID-19 business grants

This is a reminder that you can now apply for the COVID-19 'business support package for January lockdown' grant. Applications are open for businesses that were legally required to close due to the latest national lockdown.

Full details of this and other business grants available, including how to apply, are on our [COVID-19 business grants webpage](#).

Town forum meetings

If you'd like to have your say in future town forum meetings, where issues affecting Maidenhead and Windsor town centres are discussed, we want to hear from you.

You can suggest discussion topics for the [Maidenhead Town Forum](#) or [Windsor Town Forum](#) as well as attend the virtual meeting and contribute to discussions. Agendas are published a week in advance so you can see what councillors will be discussing and get involved if there is something you are interested in.

Suggestions for discussion will be added to a future agenda if appropriate.

The next meeting of the Maidenhead Town Forum is on **Monday 1 February** and Windsor Town Forum is on **Wednesday 27 January**.

To find out more about how to get involved, email mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk (for Maidenhead Town Forum) or fatima.rehman@rbwm.gov.uk (for Windsor Town Forum). You can watch the meetings live on our [YouTube channel](#).

Local FREE career support

If you are out of work and struggling to find employment, you can get free, local support and guidance from Career Springboard East Berkshire.

Volunteers and professional career coaches will help you identify your strengths and build your confidence.

You can get support and advice on things like CV and job application writing, LinkedIn and interview techniques. They also have expert guest speakers who share their skills and knowledge.

To find out more, visit the [Careers Springboard East Berkshire website](#).

Have your say

We regularly hold consultations to get your views on proposals within the Royal Borough.

Responding to our consultations and giving your feedback is the best way to ensure your views are heard.

Our current consultations are:

- [Housing strategy consultation](#) – deadline Wednesday 3 February 2021
- [Public Spaces Protection Orders to tackle anti-social behaviour](#) – deadline Sunday 7 February 2021
- [Proposed walking and cycling scheme consultation](#) – deadline Tuesday 9 February 2021

M4 closures

The M4 will be closed in both directions between junctions 4b (M25 interchange) and 5 (Langley) from 8pm on Friday 22 January to 6am on Monday 25 January 2021.

Visit the [Highways England website](#) for more details on the M4 smart motorway works.

Keep in touch

Keep up to date with news and information from the council by following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Other accounts you may be interested in:

- Royal Borough official [tourism web page](#).
- Libraries on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Windsor & Royal on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Make Maidenhead on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Frimley Health and Care

