



West Lancs COVID-19 Local information update

January 7th 2022

Covid-19 situation

What's happening in West Lancs?

- The number of people in West Lancs testing positive for covid has increased sharply since mid December, due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant - mirroring the situation in the rest of UK
- This has resulted in very high case numbers - dwarfing any seen so far during the pandemic. For example, in our last Update of December 16th, we reported 523 cases in West Lancs in the previous week. The equivalent figure today is 2,769.
- Have a look at this graph to see how much higher the case numbers have been this time: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>
- However there are tentative signs that the rate of growth is now slowing and rates in London (which was a few weeks ahead of the rest of the UK) have now started falling. It is hoped that this pattern will be mirrored over the rest of the country in the next few weeks.
- The good news is that vaccinations have done a great job and the number of Covid patients admitted to hospital in West Lancs has remained stable so far - and well below the first and second waves.
- However it will be a couple of weeks until we see the full effect of high case numbers on hospital admissions. See the full graph here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>



- See the situation in your postcode [here](#).

Latest covid data:

From the [Government Coronavirus Dashboard](#)



West Lancs Covid cases

In last 7 days to Jan 6th:

2,769 (+ 41%)

[See change over last 3 months here](#)



UK Covid cases

In last 7 days to Jan 6th:

1,272,131 (+ 29%)

[See changes over last year here](#)



People admitted to hospital – West Lancs

No. of people admitted to hospital due to covid up to Dec 26th

18 (+ 64%)

[More West Lancs hospital data here](#)



People admitted to hospital – UK

No. of people admitted to hospital due to covid up to Jan 2nd:

15,280 (+ 68%)

[More UK hospital data here](#)

Key UK developments

- The vaccination programme is continuing apace and **two vaccination milestones** were reached this week:

1. **60% of the UK population** (12+) has now had a **third/booster** dose of the vaccine (up from 50% last week!)

2. **90% of the UK population** (12+) has now had a **first dose** of the vaccine

- From next Monday 11th January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and **won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test**.
- The Government is also to provide 100,000 critical workers in England with **free lateral flow tests** to help keep essential services running.



Covid vaccination programme

Latest vaccination uptake: % population age 12+ (to January 5th 2021)			
West Lancs	84% First dose	78% Second dose	60% Booster/third dose
UK	90% First dose	83% Second dose	61% Booster/third dose

If you haven't had any covid vaccinations yet, it's never too late to start!

Every day, there are still people in West Lancs getting their first doses. And those working in the local vaccination programme are delighted to see them each time...

Needle phobia

Fear of needles is thought to be a big issue for many still unvaccinated. If this is a problem for you, do check out these resources by AnxietyUK: www.anxietyuk.org.uk/c...

Getting your vaccination

Who can get a covid vaccination?

- Everyone over 12 can get a 1st and 2nd dose
- Everyone over 18 can also get a booster

Check all eligibility [here](#)

1. Book an appointment online

You can make an appointment by

- Booking online [here](#)
- Calling free phone 119

2. Find your nearest drop-in clinic

Anyone aged 16 and over can get vaccinated at a drop-in clinic – without a pre-booked appointment.

Find nearest vaccine drop-in clinics on [the NHS website](#).

This will show you all of the **permanent clinic sites** where you can walk in for a jab.

3. Check if your GP is running a clinic

Some West Lancs GPs are still offering covid vaccine clinics.

If you are a patient with a local surgery, please **check their social media** for details (but avoid phoning as phone lines are extremely busy)

4. Additional local drop-in clinics

Additional walk-in sessions are happening at temporary 'pop-up' clinics in West Lancs.

There are **more being added each week**, so keep checking West Lancs CCG's social media and webpage for the most up to date

information: www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk/popupclinics/



**West Lancs COVID-19
vaccine sites**

Drop-in for your covid vaccination

West Lancs clinics - no need to book

- **O'Briens Pharmacy, Burscough L40 0SA**
 - **Saturday 8th January** - 10am-4pm -
 - **18 & over only**
- **Hants Lane Clinic, Ormskirk L39 1PX**
 - **18 & over only**
 - **Sunday 9th January** - 8:30am-12:30pm
 - **Monday 10th January** - 9:30am-Midday & 1:30pm-4:30pm)
 - **Tuesday 11th January** - 9am-Midday)

Pregnancy and covid vaccine

In December, one in five of the most critically ill Covid patients in the UK were unvaccinated pregnant women.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is calling on all pregnant women to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

- See more information [here](#) and have a look at this helpful video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktrylaGvOv4




Public Health
England

Pregnant?

Have your COVID-19 vaccines!

It is important to have both doses of your COVID-19 vaccine to protect you and your unborn baby.

COVID-19 infection is currently circulating and can be serious for pregnant women.

Thousands of pregnant women have been safely vaccinated in the UK and worldwide.

Call 119 or go online to www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/ to register for your vaccination appointment. You can also attend walk in, mobile or pop up vaccination clinics in your area.

 **COVID-19 immunisation**
Helping to protect you and your pregnancy

Covid testing

If you have symptoms: You will need to self-isolate and get a PCR test [here](#).

If you don't have symptoms: Anyone in West Lancashire is eligible to free lateral flow tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week. You can either:

- Collect FREE tests from a symptom free local collection site to use at home later. Find your nearest collection point [here](#). Or
- Order FREE home testing kits online to be delivered to your home, [here](#).

If you test positive: The Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme is still available and will be in place for eligible West Lancs residents until 31 March 2022.

If you're isolating and on a low income, unable to work from home, and facing financial hardship then you could be entitled: www.westlancs.gov.uk/more/emergencies/coronavirus/test-and-trace-support-payment.aspx

Want to volunteer?

If you would like to help out in your local community, the CVS Volunteer Centre has **hundreds of organisations looking for volunteers** – see below for some of those needing help now.

If you want to find out more or are interested in volunteering, do [contact Jan](#) to connect with people needing help in your local area.

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY?



There's many ways to help out in West Lancs.
Here's some of this week's opportunities:

- ➔ **Community Farm Helper - Burscough**
Enjoy fresh air, exercise and meeting new people? Volunteer to help with planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, coppicing, cataloguing and creating wildlife areas.
- ➔ **Website & Media Volunteer – Home/Aughton**
Local Nature Reserve looking for volunteers to manage, run and update website and Facebook.
- ➔ **Community Connectors - Skelmersdale**
Looking for a friendly outgoing person to volunteer in a community group.
- ➔ **Guiding Helper/Leader - Skelmersdale/Ormston**
Local Girl Guiding units need volunteers to help as leaders or group helpers.



Contact Jan at
CVS Volunteer Centre
on 07598 552945

Help with money

Budgeting tool

After Christmas, we all feel the pinch and our bank balances can often look less than healthy.

West Lancashire Borough Council has a handy budgeting tool can help you to maximise your savings or help you to keep on top of your spending in the new year.

Take a look [here](#).

Dealing with debt

Are you struggling to pay the bills?

Are money problems keeping you awake at night?

Are you constantly worrying about money?



LET'S KEEP
TALKING



Money problems keeping
you awake at night?
You're not alone.

Avoid sleepless nights, talk to
someone or a friend if you
are worried about money



You're not alone and help is at hand. There's lots of resources on the Healthier LSC website including advice from Emma Sylvester, Debt Services Manager at Citizens Advice Lancashire West: www.healthierlsc.co.uk...

Household Support Fund

Do you need a bit of extra financial support this winter?

West Lancashire Borough Council is now welcoming applications from residents who do not have enough resources to meet their immediate short-term needs and need help with essential items such as food, energy, bills, clothing and more.



Find out more about the Household Support Fund and how to apply [here](#).

Local support organisations

There are lots of local organisations that can offer help and support on a wide range of issues at this pandemic time.

Do pass this information on to anyone you know who needs a hand.

Organisations that can help:

Mental health
support

Support
organisations

Debt and benefits
advice

Emergency food
supplies
Social support

Financial help -
loans
Support for women

Emergency
furniture
Support for men