



West Lancs COVID-19 Local information update

February 11th 2022

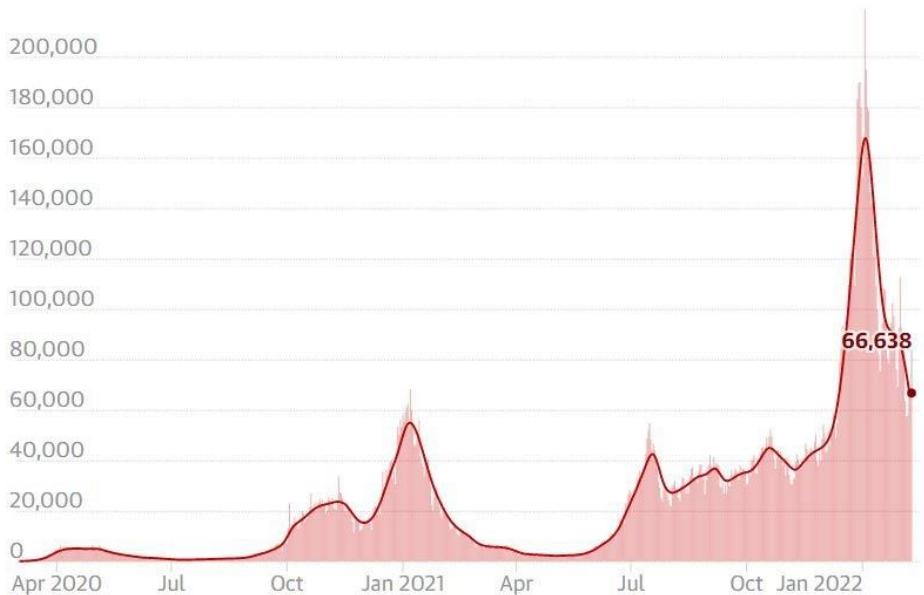
Covid-19 situation

What's happening in West Lancs?

- After last week's government dashboard showed a sharp increase in the number of Covid cases in West Lancs, we got in touch with them and they have confirmed now that it was in fact a data issue rather than a real increase**.
- It's reassuring to know that the decline in cases that we first reported in mid January has continued over the last few weeks and into this week too.
- The number of people admitted to hospital in West Lancs has increased but is still only around one-third of last January's peak.
- See the situation in your postcode [here](#).
- Across the UK as a whole, the number of cases continues to drop. This graph from the Guardian this week shows where we currently are compared to the previous peaks.
- **Case numbers are still above the height of last January's peak**, but thankfully hospitalisations and deaths are much lower – due to the vaccinations reducing the risk of severe infection and hospitalisations.



UK: new coronavirus cases per day



Line shows daily average of new cases in a given week. Cases assigned to date of publication. Data: data.gov.uk, updated 10 February, 2022

** Dashboard data issue: from January 31st, the government started counting Covid re-infections in their covid case figures and all the retrospective cases were added to the Dashboard that day. On a national level, the figures could be back dated but at local authority level they couldn't back date and therefore these were all counted in January 31st's case numbers. This 'data dump' skewed the case numbers and the 7 day average from Jan 31st, and resulted in an incorrect percentage increase showing on the Dashboard for most of last week. This issue has now worked its way through and the figures reflect the true picture again.

Latest covid data:

From the [Government Coronavirus Dashboard](#)



West Lancs Covid cases

In last 7 days to Feb 10th:

577 (- 78%)

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



People admitted to hospital - West Lancs

No. of people admitted to hospital due to covid up to Feb 6th:

45 (+ 10%)

[More West Lancs hospital data here](#)

UK Covid cases

In last 7 days to Feb 10th:

463,541 (- 25%)

[See changes over last year here](#)



People admitted to hospital - UK

No. of people admitted to hospital due to covid up to Feb 6th:

10,197 (- 11%)

[More UK hospital data here](#)

Covid vaccinations

Why get vaccinated?

1. Vaccination reduces your chance of developing Long Covid:

A new study says **vaccination reduces your chance of getting Long Covid by 41%**. The study by the Office for National Statistics found that people with covid who had had two vaccine doses reported much less long covid symptoms than those who were unvaccinated. See the full study [here](#).

2. Vaccination reduces Covid severity:

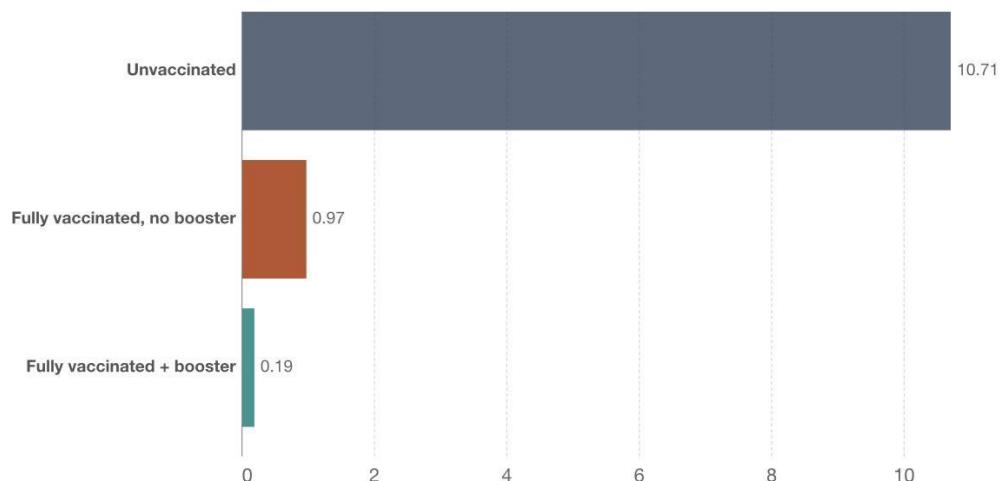
Getting vaccinated may not stop you getting the virus completely but **will** reduce how severe it is.

Data out of Switzerland this week shows the stark difference in death rates between those vaccinated and those not:

Switzerland: COVID-19 weekly death rate by vaccination status, All ages, Jan 22, 2022

Our World
in Data

Death rates are calculated as the number of deaths in each group, divided by the total number of people in this group. This is given per 100,000 people.



Source: Federal Office of Public Health

Note: Data coverage includes both Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Unvaccinated people have not received any dose. Partially-vaccinated people are excluded. Fully-vaccinated people have received all doses prescribed by the initial vaccination protocol. The mortality rate for the 'All ages' group is age-standardized to account for the different vaccination rates of older and younger people.

OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

3. It's easier to travel abroad if you're vaccinated

- From today, **fully vaccinated passengers** and under 18s do not need to take a test on arrival when arriving in the UK.
- Arrivals who are **not fully vaccinated** need proof of a negative pre-departure test and a PCR test on or before day 2 after they arrive in the UK.



See more information [here](#).

4. Covid vaccinations provide strong protection for pregnant women:

- The majority of pregnant women who have been admitted to hospital with severe Covid are unvaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccinations provide strong protection for pregnant women against the virus.
- Pregnant women who have not yet had their first, second, third or booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine are being urged: '**don't wait to take the vaccine**'.

Latest vaccination uptake: % population age 12+			
(to 2nd February 2022)			
West Lancs	85% First dose	80% Second dose	63% Booster/third dose
UK	91% First dose	85% Second dose	65% Booster/third dose

Getting your vaccination

It's never too late to come forward for the Covid vaccination.

Last week in the UK
83,042 people had their 1st dose
147,087 people had their 2nd dose



- [Who can get the covid vaccination?](#)
- [How do I book an appointment?](#)
- [Where are the nearest vaccine drop-in clinics?](#)
- [Where are this week's temporary 'pop-up' clinics?](#)

This weekend's 'pop-up' clinic is on **Saturday 13th Feb (9am-1pm)**

Hants Lane Clinic, Ormskirk, L39 1PX for those aged 16 & over

(For 1st, 2nd and boosters (and 3rd primary dose if eligible)

No appointment needed – just drop in!

Covid testing

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

If you don't have symptoms:

- Find out where to collect FREE lateral flow tests [here](#). Or
- Order FREE home testing kits online [here](#).

If you test positive: The Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme is still available for eligible West Lancs residents until 31 March 2022. Find out more [here](#)

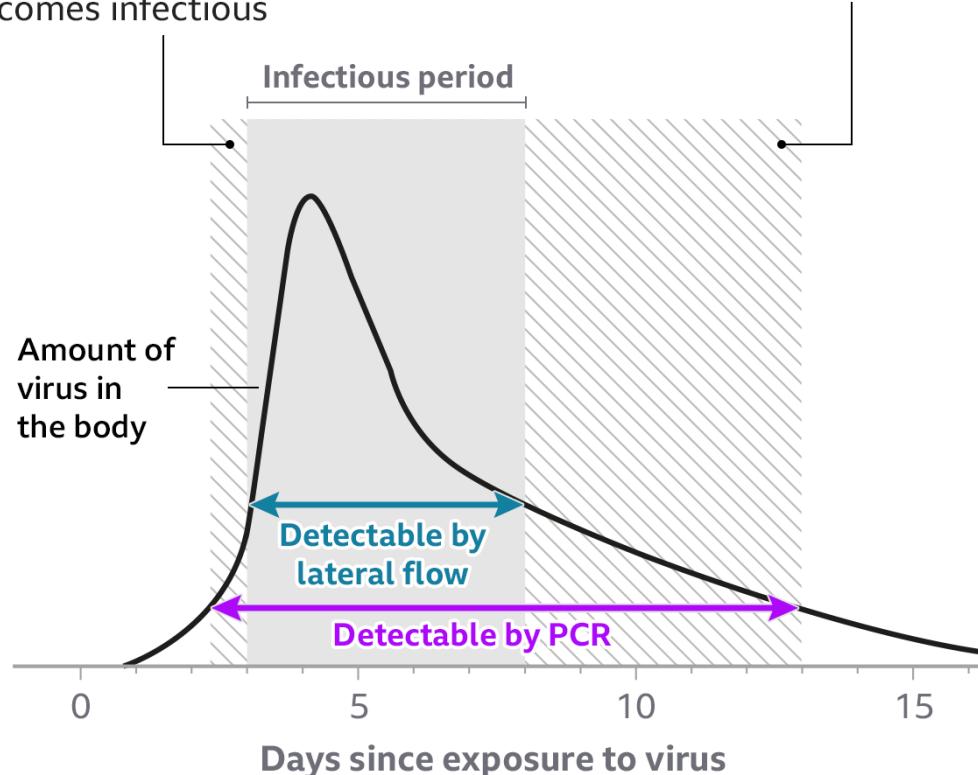
How the tests differ:

The BBC produced a useful summary this week of how lateral flows and PCRs differ in their detection times:

How lateral flow tests and PCRs differ

PCR tests can detect Covid earlier than **lateral flow tests** - often before a person becomes infectious

PCR tests can also detect a Covid infection for several days after the infectious period



Source: Rethinking Covid-19 test sensitivity, New England Journal of Medicine [\[1\]](#)

Support resources

Household Support Fund

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

West Lancashire Borough Council is welcoming applications from residents who don't 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](#).

Self-isolation support

If you know anyone self-isolating with Covid, they can find support from the new **Isolation Station** for residents across Lancashire.

Whether it's exercise, wellbeing or cooking, there are plenty of ideas on how to keep busy during their time indoors.

There's plenty of support resources too, and join the 10-day challenge for a chance to win a TV!

Find more information [here](#).



Getting out and about

Lots of voluntary sector groups have exciting activities for anyone wanting to re-engage with their communities and connect with other people:

Hesketh Bank and Tarleton Helpers' Community Cafe and shop

From today onwards, the Helpers' wonderful volunteers are working in partnership with Birchwood to use food donated by supermarkets to cook up a **tasty lunch every Friday** at Hesketh Bank Community Centre, 12 noon-2pm.

Anyone is welcome to drop in for lunch and donated food is available to take away, too.

No need to book, and it's all free (donations welcome if you can afford it)



HESKETH BANK & TARLETON
HELPERS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BIRCHWOOD

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMUNITY SHOP & CAFE

Pay as you feel - Make Friends
Reduce food waste - Save Money

"Help you, by help us, reduce food waste"

Doors open 1200 - 1400

FRIDAYS FROM 11TH FEBRUARY, 2022
HESKETH BANK COMMUNITY CENTRE
STATION RD, HESKETH BANK, PRESTON
PR4 6SR

Visit www.heskethbankcommunitycentre.org.uk for more details.

Tel: 07784 942127

The Ecumenical Centre

There's lots going on at The Eccy in Skelmersdale. Check out their [new website](#) and their new timetable of activities and sessions:

M MONDAY	T TUESDAY	W WEDNESDAY	TH THURSDAY	F FRIDAY	SA SATURDAY	S SUNDAY
SWLICAN 09:00-16:00 EMPLOYMENT & BENEFITS SUPPORT 01695726269	SWLICAN 09:00-16:00 EMPLOYMENT & BENEFITS SUPPORT 01695726269	SWLICAN 09:00-16:00 EMPLOYMENT & BENEFITS SUPPORT 01695726269	SWLICAN 09:00-16:00 EMPLOYMENT & BENEFITS SUPPORT 01695726269	SWLICAN 09:00-16:00 EMPLOYMENT & BENEFITS SUPPORT 01695726269	LATVIAN SCHOOL 10:00-12:00 £5 07813547010	
ARK 09:00-12:00 ADVICE & SUPPORT 07826656387	ARK 09:00-12:00 ADVICE & SUPPORT 07826656387		ARK 09:00-12:00 ADVICE & SUPPORT 07826656387	ARK 09:00-12:00 ADVICE & SUPPORT 07826656387	ACA KARATE FAMILY CLASS 10:00-11:00 £5.00 07903804644	
FOOD BANK 09:00-12:00 07989052832	PRAY 12:00-13:00 01695722087	WOMEN'S ARM CHAIR EXERCISES 13:00-14:00 £4 01695722134	USA BOWLS 14:00-16:00	FOOD BANK 09:00-12:00 07989052832	UNDER 18S BASKETBALL 12:00-13:00 £4 07813547010	
ASK 12:00-16:00 MATTHEW @THE-ECCY.CO.UK	ART CLASS RUSSIAN SPEAKING CHILDREN 18:00-19:00 £10 07392009975	ACA INCLUSIVE KARATE >11s £4.50 18:00-18:45 07903804644	ACA KARATE LITTLE NINJAS 17:00-17:45 £4.00 FAMILY CLASS 18:00-19:00 £5.00 ADULTS ONLY 19:00-20:00 £5.00 07903804644	ACA CHAIR EXERCISES INCLUSIVE CLASS 11:30-12:30 £4.50 OVER 50S CLASS 13:00-14:00 £4 07903804644	ART CLASS 11:30-12:30 £10 POLISH SPEAKING CHILDREN 12:45-14:15 £15 POLISH SPEAKING TEENS 14:30-16:00 £15 RUSSIAN SPEAKING TEENS 07392009975	
CHAT 12:00-16:00 DERAR @THE-ECCY.CO.UK	GO-JU RYU 18:00-19:00 £2.50 AGES 6+ 19:15-20:15 £3.50 AGES 18+ 07712871222	YOGA 18:30-19:30 £5 07775645968 YOGAINSKELMERSDALE@GMAIL.COM	GO-JU RYU 18:00-19:00 £2.50 AGES 6+ 19:15-20:15 £3.50 AGES 18+ 07712871222	PURPLE UMBRELLA ART 14:00-16:00 01704880971	ACA KARATE LITTLE NINJAS 17:00-17:45 £4.00 FAMILY CLASS 18:00-19:00 £5.00 07903804644	
BEAVERS 17:30-18:30 AGES 6-8	USA SINGING 14:00-16:00 EVERY 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY	PURPLE UMBRELLA COMMUNICATION GROUP 14:00-16:00 LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 01704880971	USA HISTORY 10:00-12:00 EVERY 4TH FRIDAY	GOT A SESSION OR EVENT YOU'D LOVE TO HOLD? EMAIL ROOMHIRE@THE-ECCY.CO.UK		
CUBS 18:30-21:00 AGES 8-10						
SCOUTS 18:30-21:00 AGES 10-14 55THORMSKIRK@OUTLOOK.COM						
USA COFFEE 14:00-16:00 EVERY 2ND & 4TH MONDAY						

The Civic, Ormskirk

There's plenty happening at the Civic this month. If you want to get active, check out their keep fit, line dancing, Clubbercise and much more [here](#). Run by a local social enterprise, there's something for everyone!



Mere Sands Woods

Mere Sands nature reserve re-opened again last week.

As well as being a birder's paradise, it's home to a whole host of fascinating wildlife, and mammal-lovers can enjoy spotting roe deer, stoats and fox in the broad-leaved and conifer woodland.

A great place for a crisp winter walk this weekend, and keep your eyes peeled for kingfishers and fabulous fungi.

They recently opened their new building, so why not finish with a brew and a slice of cake from the café! More information [here](#).



AppleCast

AppleCast in Newburgh is open 7 days a week 10am-3pm, and makes a great day out.

Run by local charity Applecast as an alternative education centre for young people needing support, it has a farm, lovely cafe, and garden centre.

Enjoy feeding the alpacas, sheep, ponies, goats and chickens, while stocking up on some spring plants.

Just £3 parking which includes a FREE hot drink!



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](#)

[Emergency food supplies](#)

[Support organisations](#)

[Financial help - loans](#)

[Debt and benefits advice](#)

[Emergency furniture](#)

[Social support](#)

[Support for women](#)

[Support for men](#)