



Roadmap out of lockdown



On Monday, 22 February, the Prime Minister announced plans on how the Government will begin to lift restrictions in England from 8 March, starting with schools and colleges.

The Government's roadmap contains four steps for easing restrictions over the coming months to offer a route back to a more normal life. Below you will find what is planned for the first two steps. Until then the full national restrictions remain in place to keep the virus under control.

Step 1

From 8 March:

- The priority is to ensure that all children and students return safely to face-to-face education in schools and colleges from 8 March.
- Higher Education students at English universities on practical courses can also return.

- Childcare and children's supervised activities can also resume where necessary to enable parents to work or engage in similar activities.
- To reduce the chance of the virus spreading in schools, twice-weekly rapid testing for secondary and college pupils will be introduced, in addition to regular testing for all teachers.
- People will be allowed to leave home for recreation and exercise outdoors with their household or support bubble, if they are eligible for one, or with one person from outside their household.
- Care home residents will be allowed one regular visitor.

From 29 March:

- Outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.
- Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports.
- The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes.
- Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed, given it will remain important to manage the risk of imported variants and protect the vaccination programme.

Step 2

No earlier than 12 April

- Opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres.
- Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups); as will most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas.
- Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where

indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can also reopen.

- Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors and there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service'). Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.
- While funerals can continue with up to 30 mourners, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.

In implementing Steps 1 and 2, the Government will be guided by data, not dates, so that we do not risk a surge in infections that would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS. For that reason, **all the dates in the roadmap are indicative and subject to change.**

There will be a minimum of five weeks between each step: four weeks for the scientific data to reflect the changes in restrictions and to be analysed; followed by one week's advance notice of the restrictions that will be eased.

We are currently preparing for Step 1 of the Government's four-step roadmap out of national lockdown. No changes will be taking place until 8 March.

For now please keep safe and [stay at home per the rules in force](#). Get tested when needed and isolate when required. Please also follow the 'hands, face, space' and 'letting fresh air in' guidance.

[See graph of the plans for Steps 1 and 2,](#)

[Read more information on the Covid 19 Response - Spring 2021 roadmap](#)

[See updated national lockdown guidance](#)

Covid-19: local cases data

WEST BERKSHIRE | COVID-19 CASES

As of 25/2/21

Total number of cases	6,040	Rate of cases per 100k in West Berkshire in the last 7 days	90.2
Daily number of new cases	13	Rate of cases per 100k in England in the last 7 days	118.3
Cases in the last 7 days	143		

#LetsPlayOurPart

As of 25 February there have been 6,040 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in West Berkshire. In the last week we have seen 143 new cases with a weekly case rate of 90.2 per 100,000 population.

We are continuing to see a fall in our weekly cases of Covid-19. However, our weekly rate is above the regional average. Please remember to keep staying at home at this time unless for [legally-permitted reasons](#).

You can find the latest information about the number of coronavirus cases in West Berkshire and beyond on the [Public Health Berkshire website](#).

Next public Local Outbreak Engagement Board meeting

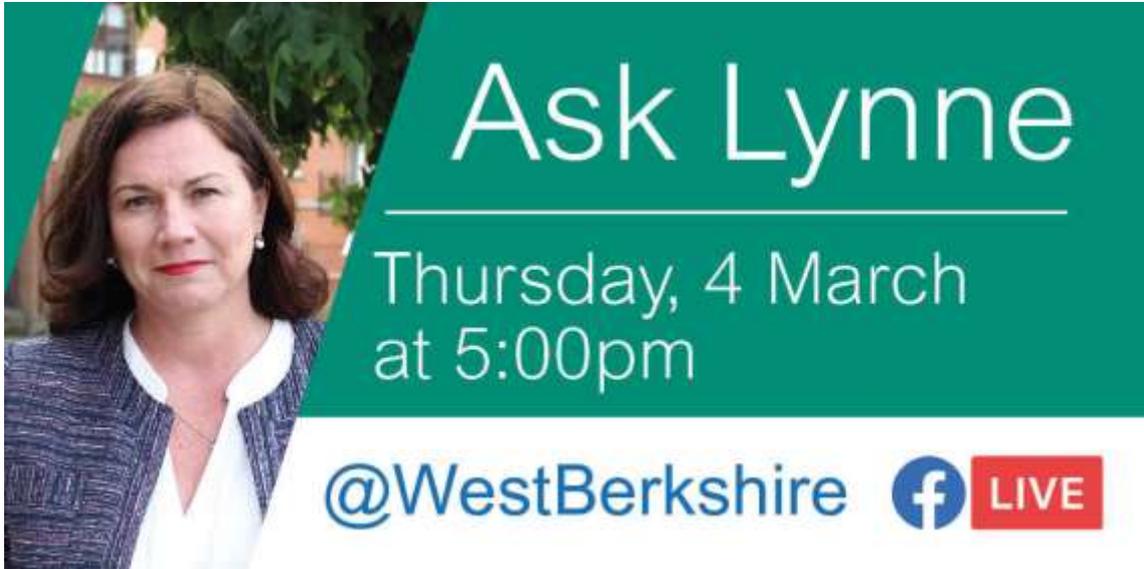
Public Local
Outbreak
Engagement
Board Meeting



Tune in via our YouTube channel

On Monday, 1 March at 6pm, we will be holding our fortnightly public Local Outbreak Engagement Board meeting to discuss how we are controlling the spread of Covid-19 in West Berkshire. [Watch the meeting and view the agenda here](#)

Ask Lynne - Facebook Live



Join us on Facebook Live on Thursday 4 March, where Council Leader, Lynne Doherty and Head of Public Health, Matt Pearce, will be answering your questions on our ongoing response to Covid-19.

The live update begins at 5pm on our [Facebook page](#). If you are unable to follow the event, you can [email in your questions in advance](#).

The video will remain available to watch on the Facebook page after the event, and will also be available on our [YouTube channel](#).

In today's Coronavirus Weeknotes



In today's Weeknotes, our Leader and Chief Executive discuss our Covid Response and Recovery plans and share their cautious optimism for a post-Covid future. In this 50th edition, they also reflect upon the terrible toll of the pandemic on

everyone's lives over the past year.

[See Weeknotes #50](#)

Community testing news



Community testing process – walk through video

This short video taken at our Highwood Copse testing site shows how simple and quick it is for eligible workers to get a test for Covid (called a 'lateral flow test'). [Watch the video](#)

Booking a community test

Community testing is primarily available to critical and key workers but we are also inviting self-employed and small businesses across West Berkshire to get a test at one of our four sites by [booking online](#). Please use Edge, Safari, or Chrome and not Internet Explorer to book a lateral flow test, and only book if you do not have Covid-19 symptoms. [Read more about community testing](#)

Covid-19 vaccination information



Covid-19 vaccination appointments bookable online

Certain groups can now book a vaccine appointment online via the national booking

system. To check who is currently eligible, and to make or change an appointment, please visit the [NHS Covid-19 vaccination booking system](#).

Covid-19 vaccine permitted during Ramadan

The British Islamic Medical Association has recently published a statement advising that the first or second dose of the Covid-19 vaccination is allowed during fasting. [Read the full statement](#). Ramadan is due to start on the evening of Monday 12 April.

Be alert to Covid vaccination scams

Please be aware of possible vaccination scams. To find out more information about types of scams and how to report them, [please see this leaflet](#) produced by the Government and the NHS.

In addition, the BBC Asian Network has created some great content on vaccine scams and made it available on social media. There are videos in [Urdu](#), [Sylheti](#), [Punjabi](#), [Tamil](#) and [Gujarati](#) for Twitter, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). You can also find these on the [BBC news website](#).

Covid-19 financial support



We encourage residents and businesses to reach out for financial support if they are struggling during the pandemic. Please visit the links below for further information:

[COVID-19 Support for Residents](#) - please note that the application deadline for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme for residents is 15 March.

[COVID-19 Support for Businesses](#)

Health and well being



West Berkshire Council and Greenham Trust have jointly set up a £200,000 'Surviving to Thriving' fund to enable voluntary and community sector organisations to apply for grants to help improve the mental health and wellbeing of local residents impacted by Covid-19. All not-for-profit organisations in West Berkshire are invited to apply via [The Good Exchange](#).

Mental health and wellbeing advice and support

See Public Health England's [advice for taking care of your mental health and wellbeing](#) during the pandemic.

You can find a list of information and help available for people struggling with mental health and anxiety [on our website](#).

Meet our Covid Marshalls



As national restrictions gradually begin to ease and when retail, hospitality and other businesses start to re-open according to the Government's Covid-19 roadmap, our Covid Marshalls will play an important role in guiding us safely out of lockdown.

This [short video](#) shows them out on our streets meeting local residents.

Like many community services, Covid Marshalls sometimes work in pairs. They are always partnered with the same person in order to avoid the whole team having to self-isolate if one of them should test positive for Covid-19.

Food Waste Action Week: 1 - 7 March



The past year has changed how we think about food – stocking up on supplies, learning to cook at home more, and who can forget making some tasty banana bread?

However, the pandemic has given us all a new respect for our beautiful planet, and wasting food feeds climate change.

That's why Food Waste Action Week is being launched from 1 to 7 March this year to raise awareness about the impact of wasting

food has on our planet.

Each year UK households throw away 4.5 million tonnes of food that could have been eaten! There's loads you can do to cut the amount you waste this Food Waste Action Week. Get involved and check out all the tips by [reading more on their website](#).

Would you like to receive more Environment news from us? We've just launched a new Environment Bulletin to keep you updated on our environmental projects and progress towards meeting our 2030 carbon neutral target.



[Check out the first edition](#) and then sign up on same page. Alternatively you can [update your subscriber preferences here](#).