

Stay in touch

We appreciate that normally you may not wish to sign up to council news, but in the event of local outbreaks we want to be able to reach as many people as we can, as quickly as we can, in order to keep people safe. Therefore, we are encouraging all residents to sign up to our COVID-19 e-newsletter which can be done on this webpage: info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-locp. You can also follow our social media channels which can be found below under Useful Guidance.

Help us to keep West Berkshire open and safe for all.

Who to contact

If you think you may have COVID-19 then check your symptoms and find out what to do by visiting: www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or call [111](tel:111).

If you need to get tested then go to: www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or call [119](tel:119).

If you think someone has COVID-19 symptoms in your workplace, school or other setting please contact: [01635 503242](tel:01635503242) (9am to 5pm, Monday to Sunday) or email: CV19notifications@westberks.gov.uk

If you are self-isolating and need help with shopping or medication delivery, please contact the Community Support Hub on: [01635 503579](tel:01635503579) or email: westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk

Useful Guidance

The latest national guidance can be found online: www.gov.uk/coronavirus
Test and Trace information is available here:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing

Remember to sign up for our newsletter: info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-locp

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West Berkshire COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plans

An information leaflet for residents



Dear resident,

We want to thank you for your continued efforts in keeping COVID-19 infection rates to a minimum across our district. We know that dealing with the pandemic has been difficult for all of us but so far we've had lower infection rates than the national and regional average, which is testament to everyone. We have seen a great sense of community spirit throughout this time, with residents stepping up to help each other through this challenging period.

Sadly, the virus is still with us with the prospects of a vaccine and better treatments still some time away, so we all have a role to play to protect ourselves, friends, family and our community from the spread of the virus.

There is a risk that an outbreak may happen in this area so the Council has prepared a COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP) which outlines how a local outbreak and any future restrictions would be managed. Integral to the success of the plan will be ensuring that you are aware of its existence, what may happen and what may be asked of you, should an outbreak occur in West Berkshire.

We would therefore ask you to read this leaflet to find out more and to help us all stay safe.



Lynne Doherty
Leader



Nick Carter
Chief Executive



Local Outbreak Control Plan – What is it?

The plan summarises how we will aim to protect our residents and communities by minimising further spread or recurrence of COVID-19 across West Berkshire. It details how we, as a Council, will work with our partners and the community in order to respond effectively in the prevention and management of COVID-19. You can view a summary on our website via this link

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-locp>.

What may happen if an outbreak occurs in West Berkshire?

- We will work with partners to identify any pattern and source of the outbreak.
- Try to find all those who may be affected and make sure they are tested and isolated.
- Ensure the setting e.g. business, school, factory etc. know what to do which may include cleaning their site or temporarily closing if deemed necessary.

How might an outbreak affect you?

- You may be contacted and asked to get a test and if positive, told to self-isolate.
- Settings may be shut for a period of time and will be supported on the necessary steps to take before reopening safely.
- In severe situations an area in West Berkshire may have to go into a local 'lockdown' for a period of time until the number of cases reduce.
- Mobile Testing Units may be deployed to the area affected to support you to get a test.

How can you play your part to prevent an outbreak in West Berkshire?

- Keep up to date and keep following the Government guidance: www.gov.uk/coronavirus. Act as if you have it, anyone can spread it.
- Continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines, maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitiser regularly and wearing a face covering where required.
- If you, or anyone in your household, is displaying coronavirus symptoms; a high fever, persistent cough or a change or loss in taste/smell, you can request a test (details overleaf).
- Self-isolate if instructed to do so by the NHS test and trace service. If you are contacted by the NHS test and trace service you will never be asked for financial details, passwords or payment. Full details on how the service works can be found overleaf.