



Weekly News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers



Updates from the Community Support Hub

Booking a Covid-19 test – We are very sorry to hear that some people have been struggling to get a slot for a Covid-19 test. There is currently a high demand on the Covid-19 testing system nationwide, caused by capacity at the labs and not at local testing centres. Local testing centres may appear quiet, however, appointments slots maybe harder to come by because the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is prioritising tests in areas known to have higher infection rates.

DHSC advises that if people are unable to get any tests at a convenient time or location is to wait and try again in a few hours when more testing slots will be released.

People should not turn up to any testing site without an appointment.

If someone in your household has coronavirus symptoms you should continue to self-isolate while you arrange to get a test for all household members.

Tests must be done within the first five days of having symptoms.

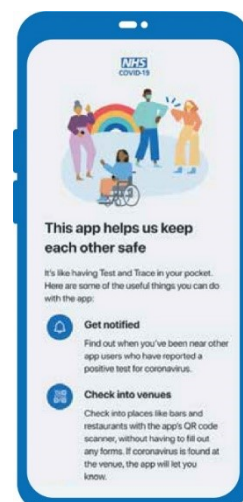
Residents should only book a Covid-19 test if they have symptoms or if they have been asked to do so by NHS Test and Trace or a clinician.

A Home test may be available if a resident is unable to get to a test site. This must be requested within the first four days and before 3pm on the fourth day. On day five, the option for a home test is no longer valid and the resident must visit a test site.

Appointments or Home test kits need to be booked on www.nhs.uk/coronavirus OR <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> OR by calling 119. Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

The NHS Test and Trace app will be available from 24 September across England and Wales. This follows successful trials with residents on the Isle of Wight and the London Borough of Newham, and with NHS Volunteer Responders. Please encourage your communities to download and use the app to keep people safe. In summary:

- The app will be used alongside traditional contact tracing to notify users if they have come into contact with someone who later tests positive for coronavirus.
- The app allows people to report symptoms, order a coronavirus test, check in to venues by scanning a QR code and it helps the NHS trace individuals who may have coronavirus.
- The app will help the NHS understand if the virus is spreading in a particular area, so local authorities can respond quickly to stop it spreading further and save lives.
- The app does this while protecting a user's anonymity. Nobody, including the government, will know who or where a particular user is.



To download the NHS COVID-19 app, search for “NHSCOV19” in the Apple Store / Google Play Store on your phone. By downloading and using the app, you’ll be helping protect those around you – friends, family, colleagues and local communities.

Further information:

- [What the app does](#)
- Downloadable information and resources [here](#)
- Watch these videos about the [Test and Trace App](#) and [QR code posters](#)

Have your say on West Berkshire Council’s draft Housing Strategy 2020 – 2036



Please help us spread the following news to your community/ies – we need as many views as possible from all ages and all walks of life:

The West Berkshire Council is inviting residents to have their say on its draft Housing Strategy 2020 - 2036. The draft strategy details how the Council plans to support residents with access to good quality housing while preventing homelessness and rough sleeping. This public consultation begins Friday, 18 September 2020 and will close at midnight on Sunday, 01 November 2020.

Make sure that you provide your views by reading the draft housing strategy and taking part in the consultation survey by midnight, 01 November: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/drafthousingstrategy>.

Those unable to participate online can request a hard copy by calling 01635 519530 and selecting option 1.

More information in the [press release](#).

Government’s Latest News and Guidance on Covid-19

Jewish High Holy Days checklist - From today, Jewish communities will be marking a series of religious Festivals. This [High Holy Days Guidance](#) sets out what is and isn’t permitted under the Rule of Six and other public health measures.



Contactless Creativity seeks volunteer drivers to deliver activity packs to isolating residents in Newbury and surrounding area



Contactless Creativity offers the opportunity for those who are currently shielding or who do not have access to the internet to keep creative and feel connected by participating in guided activities at home. In partnership with local artists, Contactless Creativity has designed packs with activity sheets and materials for creative tasks such as painting or writing.

Volunteers are needed each week to deliver packs to their allocated residents, and upon delivery, pick up the previous week’s packs from these participants. The packs are collected from and dropped off at the Learning Centre (two doors down from Corn Exchange).

For further information, please call 01635 582 666 or email Rebecca Smith on rebeccas@cornexchangenew.co.uk and Hannah Elder on hannah@cornexchangenew.co.uk.

First aid at your fingertips – Apps from British Red Cross



Have first aid skills with you wherever you go with these free British Red Cross apps:

- The First Aid app features simple, easy-to-learn skills for a range of first aid situations, as well as tips on how to prepare for emergencies, from severe winter weather to road traffic accidents.
- The Baby and Child first aid app provides simple, easy-to-learn skills to help a baby or child in a first aid emergency.

The apps can be downloaded from Google Play and Apple Store. More information [here](#).

Good news stories – please keep them coming in!

We love to feature your good news stories on our social media and [Hub Facebook](#) page and you can find more about the wonderful work of West Berkshire's volunteers on our [Local Heroes](#) website.

In case you missed them, check out the most recently published articles here:

East Ilsley - [Meet the Marvellous East Ilsley Emergency Response Team](#)

Frilsham - [Connecting residents through WhatsApp](#)

Hampstead Norreys - [Helping out in and around Hampstead Norreys](#)

Peasemore - [Peasemore Committee builds extended team of "Lockdown Volunteers" for the village](#)

Woolhampton - [Woolhampton Help volunteer team sprang into action during lockdown](#)

Please contact us to share your stories and volunteer photos. It's a great way to say a public thank you to your volunteers and your local community. We can arrange to interview you and write the article for you to approve before it's issued. Please contact Hub Communications Officer Zoë White on: Zoe.White1@westberks.gov.uk or tel 07881 036 818.

With our grateful thanks and best wishes, The Hub Team.

*Please ensure that all queries about any individual cases are directed to the Hub via the general email westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk or by calling **01635 503579**. This is to ensure they are dealt with promptly, effectively and in line with guidelines on dealing with vulnerable adults.*