



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

Community Support Hub Update from Dave Wraight, Hub Oversight



It is hard to believe that we have passed a one year anniversary of the initial lockdown; so much has taken place over that time with so many changes to our lives. As we reflect over that period I am struck by the incredible way that communities and other groups in West Berkshire came together to meet the needs of those around them.

At the outset of this global crisis, local communities sprang into action to identify and respond to the needs of those around them. The Community Support Hub was born to connect those in need due to the pandemic to the many community and voluntary groups created to support those needs. Over the last year we have seen and heard of the impact that you have made from meeting practical requirements such as delivering medication, shopping and other essential goods, to supporting those shielding through emotional support and virtual contact, trying to diminish the psychological toll of isolation. Dotted around West Berkshire are many people with a story to tell of the kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness, selflessness of others at a point of crisis; you are those heroes!

As the requirement to shield for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable comes to an end and the road map for other lockdown measures are eased, we remain very grateful for all the effort and energy you have expended to support the vulnerable and those in need – Thank you. Over the coming months the fight against the virus continues, the importance of self-isolation for those with a positive test result is as important as ever and there will still be needs in our community. On behalf of those in the Community Support Hub can we thank you, the voluntary and community groups across West Berkshire for your partnership and support in this last exceptional year.

If there are ways that the Hub can assist you to support your community, please get in contact by calling 01635 503579 or by emailing westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk. Or if you have developed new or innovative ways to support your community, please share it with us using the same contact information.

West Berkshire Council's eNewsletters for residents and businesses

Our recent bulletins include:

[Coronavirus Weeknotes #54 – 26 March](#)

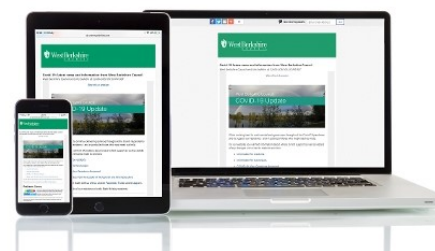
[Covid-19 News Bulletin – 26 March](#)

[Environment News – 25 March](#)

[Residents' General News Bulletin – 24 March](#)

[Covid-19 News Bulletin – 19 March](#)

[Residents' General News Bulletin – 17 March](#)



Please kindly remind your communities to sign up to receive our newsletters direct to their inbox by registering or updating their preferences on [this page](#).

How the rules will change on 29 March

The Government has updated the national lockdown guidance to include a summary of changes to the rules in England from 29 March as follows:

- People will be able to meet outdoors either in a group of six (from any number of households), or in a group of any size from up to two households (each household can include existing support bubbles, if eligible)
- People will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children
- Formally organised parent and child groups will be able to take place outdoors for up to fifteen attendees. Children under five will not be counted in this number



From 1 April, those identified as clinically extremely vulnerable will no longer be advised to shield. However, they should continue to take extra precautions to protect themselves. It is important that they continue to keep the number of social interactions they have low and try to limit the amount of time they spend in settings where they are unable to maintain social distancing.

See updated guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

The link below to the 'COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021' contains further information on the roadmap out of lockdown in England:

Roadmap: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

The government has published accessible, large print and easy read versions of their guidance on the COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021.

- [Accessible version](#)
- [Large print version](#)
- [Easy read version](#)

The government has also published versions of their guidance on the COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 in other languages as follows:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Bengali](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Gujarati](#)
- [Hindi](#)
- [Polish](#)
- [Punjabi-Gurmukhi](#)
- [Punjabi-Shahmukhi](#)
- [Slovak](#)
- [Somali](#)
- [Urdu](#)
- [Welsh](#)

How to take a COVID test – instructions in different languages

This information provided by the Government is suitable for home kits or for tests at a testing site.

- [Bengali](#)
- [French](#)
- [Kurdish](#)
- [Pashto](#)
- [Polish](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Romanian](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Slovak](#)
- [Urdu](#)

The government is working on uploading further translations.

You can also [watch a video demonstration](#) of how to take the test.

Access to coronavirus vaccine for undocumented people

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Home Office (HO) have confirmed the coronavirus vaccine will be available to everyone living in the UK free of charge, regardless of their immigration status, and that no immigration checks will be carried out.

Those registered with a GP surgery will be invited by the NHS when the vaccine becomes available to their cohort. When registering at a GP surgery it is not mandatory to provide an address, and any details that are given are never shared outside the NHS.

Individuals do not need to be registered at a GP surgery or have an NHS number to receive the vaccine. They should never be denied on this basis.

The DHSC has also made clear to NHS Trusts that patients known to be undergoing vaccination, testing and treatment for coronavirus or possible reaction to the vaccine are not subject to immigration status checks. No personal information will be shared outside the NHS or with any other government departments if a person takes the vaccine.

“Check Before You Share” - Social media campaign to target false Covid-19 vaccine information



Some information shared on social media can be worrying. I advise everyone to check the NHS website for the facts before passing on information that might not be true.

Check before you share.

Dr Onyinye Okonkwo
General Practitioner, Birmingham

HM Government

#COVIDVaccine

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) continues its social media campaign to tackle false vaccine information online through a series of shareable videos and support from social media companies – and invites the support of councils and community groups to promote the “Check Before You Share” message. The main aim of the campaign is to counter the spread of misleading and false information through private messaging channels on social media.

DCMS has updated its toolkit with additional content designed to be shared via Whatsapp and Facebook community groups, as well as Twitter, Youtube and Instagram, to tackle false information spread through private channels. It follows concerns from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) of low vaccine uptake amongst some communities.

We encourage you to download the toolkit and share content as appropriate in your community communications. See Updated toolkit:

https://dcmsblog.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DCMS_FalseInformation_Toolkit_March21.pdf

Vaccination leaflet translation versions from NHS and Public Health England

- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Albanian](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Arabic](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Bengali](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Gujarati](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Hindi](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Punjabi](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Polish](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Romanian](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Somali](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Spanish](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Tagalog](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Turkish](#)
- [COVID-19 Guide for older adults Urdu](#)



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**LESS THAN
100 DAYS TO
APPLY TO THE
EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME**



Find out more and apply now at:
gov.uk/EUSettlementScheme

It's now less than 100 days until the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme on 30 June. The Home Office has produced new social media assets to mark this milestone to raise awareness of the scheme among people who are yet to apply – you are welcome to download content to share relevant information to your networks.

Sample social media post:

Time is running out to apply to the EU #SettlementScheme, with less than 100 days until the deadline of 30 June 2021. If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen or their family members (resident in the UK by 31 December), apply now to continue to work, study, access healthcare and benefits in the UK. Apply at gov.uk/EUSettlementScheme.

See toolkit for more sample posts, images and videos:

<https://homeoffice.brandworkz.com/BMS/albums/?album=2143&lightboxAccessID=61937BA7-3E37-4A6F-9EF4D12C3B7CD05E>

St. Mary's Church Burghfield lights up for National Day of Remembrance



On Tuesday this week West Berkshire residents and we at the Council joined the country in the National Day of Remembrance to remember everyone who has died during the past year, and the people they left behind who are grieving.

Stephanie of Burghfield wanted to do something special for this day, so she organised for her parish church, St Mary's Church, to be lit up yellow for 30 mins on the Tuesday evening.

A generous local Reading company, Martin's Lights, working with CSCo Audio under their new Collective Live banner, arranged this lovely light display free of charge.