

# Latest public health data and advice

## The statistics

In the seven days up to 22 January, there has been a total of 2,038 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire (equivalent to a weekly rate of 294.7 per 100,000 residents). This is a decrease from 2,763 new cases in the previous seven days (equivalent to a weekly rate of 399.5 per 100,000 residents).

The figures are summarised in the table below. This includes the number of new cases for this week compared to the previous week (up to 15 January) across the county and its five districts.

### Cases of COVID-19 by district

Area name	Cases in 7 days up to 15/01	Rate per 100,000 population	Cases in 7 days up to 22/01	Rate per 100,000 population
Cherwell	820	544.8	553	367.4
Oxford	827	542.4	598	392.2
South Oxfordshire	428	301.3	371	261.2
Vale of White Horse	394	289.7	337	247.8
West Oxfordshire	294	265.7	179	161.8
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>399.5</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>294.7</b>

## COVID-19 dashboard

There is now a [COVID-19 dashboard](#) on our website where you can access daily COVID-19 statistics.

The dashboard shows:

- daily new cases
- total cases to date
- weekly rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 population
- daily assessments of reported symptoms
- a breakdown of city and districts.

## Lockdown measures

A reminder of the lockdown measures:

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- You must stay at home, except for a legally permitted reason. This includes activities such as essential shopping, education and childcare, work which cannot be done from home, medical needs, exercise, and communal worship.
- If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should stay local in the village, town or part of the city where you live.
- You must not meet socially with family or friends, unless they are part of your household or support bubble.
- You can leave your home to exercise once a day. You can exercise in a public outdoor place with members of your household or support bubble or, when you are on your own, with one person from another household.
- Primary, secondary and special schools will remain open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Remote learning will take place for all other children until at least 8 March. End-of-year exams will not take place this summer.
- Early years settings such as childminders and nurseries can stay open.
- Higher education provision will remain online until mid-February for all courses, except those for future critical workers such as medicine and dentistry.
- Pubs, restaurants, and non-essential shops and businesses must close, although hospitality venues can provide delivery and takeaway services - but not takeaway alcohol.
- People who are clinically extremely vulnerable should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. They should not attend work.

There is more information about the lockdown restrictions on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), supported by a comprehensive list of [resident FAQs](#) on our website.

### **Clinically extremely vulnerable people**

Clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend health appointments. If they cannot work from home, they are advised not to go to work and can claim any support where eligible. They should have received a letter from the Department of Health and Social Care to advise them and should follow the advice set out in the [shielding section of the CEV guidance](#).

**Response**

## **Responding to case numbers**

After three weeks of lockdown, we are now starting to see a drop in the number of COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire. However, **rates are still at a dangerously high level and, while any decrease is welcome, we cannot afford to be complacent. Cases are coming down at a much slower rate than they went up and we are still not even close to the levels we saw before Christmas.**

**We therefore need to remain vigilant and follow the [national lockdown rules](#). The measures are there to protect the NHS, our vital social care services, and to save lives.**

Our communications activity continues to focus on reinforcing benefit and behaviours associated with the national lockdown message. This includes an Oxfordshire-wide campaign aimed at those who are stretching the lockdown rules. Called 'What's the harm?', it's designed to make people stop and think about the impact of their actions.

**We would be very grateful for your help** in sharing messages with residents and underlining the importance of sticking to the rules. You will find graphics and messages for social media in the councillors' #StopTheSpread [social media toolkit](#).

## **Vaccination programme**

24 vaccination centres are now operational across the county. This includes 21 GP-led local vaccination sites, two hospital hubs – the Churchill Hospital and the Warneford Hospital - and the mass vaccination centre at the Kassam Stadium. Residents aged 75 and over are being contacted by letter and phone via the national booking system to make an appointment for their first vaccination at the Kassam. The centre will open its doors to members of the public who have a booked appointment from Monday, and it will be open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm.

To support the new centre at the Kassam, our transport teams have worked with Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach to enhance services and provide crucial daily links every half an hour to the stadium. The revised timetable will start on Monday 1 February from 6.25am (7.30am on Saturday and Sunday) to 8pm, seven days a week for up to six months. This will be through the Oxford Bus Company city 3A and Stagecoach 3A services. The services will also be extended to serve Oxford rail station and Cowley Centre via Greater Leys and Blackbird Leys, to further improve connectivity to the centre.

## **Community COVID-19 vaccine webinar - Saturday 30 January, 8pm**

This evening a panel of local and national medical experts (including representatives from Oxford University Hospitals) are taking part in a community webinar to offer assurance and help combat misinformation around the COVID-19 vaccine. Alongside short presentations, there will be an opportunity for people to ask the panel any questions they might have about the vaccines and the vaccination process. The community webinar is being hosted by Imam Monawar Hussain, the Muslim Chaplain at OUH. Anyone interested in joining the event can [register their interest online](#).

### **Testing**

Testing is a key part of our response to the virus. Across Oxfordshire, we have a range of testing sites for people who have COVID-19 symptoms, including drive-through and walk-in sites. We also have a number of mobile testing units operating in the county and the latest dates and locations for these are below. [Booking](#) is required for all testing sites.

### **Carterton Pavilion, Monahan Way, Carterton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3AN**

- February: 3, 10, 17 and 24

### **Chinnor Rugby Club, Rectory Pavilion, Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3JL**

- February: 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26

### **Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University, College Close, Oxfordshire, OX33 1HX**

- January: 31
- February: 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 and 28

### **COVID-19 scam alert**

Please continue to help protect people in your division by sharing the following information. Unfortunately, the pandemic has brought out more and more scammers. Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They

are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

In the UK, COVID-19 vaccines will only be available through the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, the vaccine is free of charge. At no point will you be asked to pay.

- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.
- The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.
- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

If you or a resident receive a call that you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

All the details above can be found in the [members' section](#) of the intranet.

## Re-start, re-cover, re-new

### Winter Support Grant available until the end of March

Please remind residents and community groups in your division that financial help is still available for people struggling to feed their families or heat their homes this winter as a result of the pandemic. Together, the county council, the district / City councils and Citizens Advice are offering support to vulnerable residents through a [Winter Support Grant](#). Oxfordshire was awarded £400,000 by the government in December to fund the cost of food, electricity, heating and other essential items, and the financial help is available for households to claim by 31 March 2021.

**Please direct residents to their local district or city council website for more information:**

- **Cherwell District:** [www.cherwell.gov.uk/wintergrant](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/wintergrant)
- **Vale of White Horse:** [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/winter-grant](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/winter-grant)
- **West Oxfordshire:** [www.westoxon.gov.uk/wintergrant](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/wintergrant)
- **South Oxfordshire:** [southoxon.gov.uk/winter-grant](http://southoxon.gov.uk/winter-grant)
- Visit [Oxford City Council's website](#) for those that live in the city.

Households with children can claim up to £350, while those without children can receive up to £175. Funding is providing through supermarket vouchers and/or to cover costs for pre-payment meters, or to make sure that a heating or water bill is paid. The council teams administering the scheme will carry out appropriate eligibility checks. Please note that if someone has received a food voucher from a previous scheme, they may also be eligible for the Winter Support Grant.

### **People asked to think 111 this winter**

As hospitals across the county remain under pressure, Oxfordshire residents are encouraged to contact NHS 111 first through 111 online or by phone if they are thinking of attending an emergency department. This advice is for people who need clinical advice but **who are not in a life-threatening emergency**.

By calling 111, they will be assessed and, if appropriate, booked into either the John Radcliffe or Horton General Hospital emergency department for treatment. However, if it would be more appropriate for them to receive clinical advice elsewhere, they will be advised on this.

Please encourage residents in your division to support our hospitals at this critical time and encourage them to follow this advice. More information is in our [news story](#).

### **Flooding information**

Rain and snowfall have led to higher river levels than normal in Oxfordshire over a prolonged period of time this winter. This means that watercourses are very sensitive to the further rainfall that is forecast in the county in the coming days and we know this will be of concern to communities.

Our [flooding news page](#) provides a range of links to important information to help Oxfordshire residents monitor the situation. The [Oxfordshire flooding toolkit](#) gives advice to residents, business and landowners on how to prepare and respond to flooding.

### **Census update**

Our campaign around the Census has now begun and we would welcome your support in rolling this message out using the social media assets we have provided. These will be refreshed on a regular basis to ensure they reflect the various stages of the campaign. Initially, we are focusing on awareness – highlighting the date (21 March) and explaining the role of the Census. As I mentioned last week, we would be really grateful if you would update this [quick questionnaire](#) with how and when you have shared information about the Census in your community.

The Census team has provided a [handbook](#) specifically for councillors. If you have any questions on handbook, contact Lisa Stead at [lisa.stead58@field.Census.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.stead58@field.Census.gov.uk) or on 07452 942723 (Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse) and Sinead Leach at [sinead.leach49@field.Census.gov.uk](mailto:sinead.leach49@field.Census.gov.uk) or on 07452 948074 (South Oxfordshire and Oxford City).

## Council meetings

Links to view all virtual public meetings can be found on the [meeting details](#) page on our website – simply click on each meeting in the calendar to view the link. For those members requesting to speak, committee officers will make the necessary arrangements for you to attend the meeting. Recordings can be viewed after each meeting.

### **There are two virtual public meetings next week:**

- Wednesday 3 February, [Education Scrutiny Committee](#), 1pm
- Thursday 4 February, [Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee](#), 10am

The top tips for councillors and the [councillor protocol for virtual public meetings](#) will continue to be useful in maximising the democratic potential of our digital meetings.

## And finally...

**Staying up to date**

For the latest information about the council's response to COVID-19, regularly check your emails, visit the council's website [oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) and follow our social media accounts.